

Smith call to Britain as Rhodesia talks collapse

Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, and Mr Joshua Nkomo, the African nationalist leader, collapsed last night. Smith urged Britain to help in resolving the institutional deadlock. President Kaunda of Zambia said Africa must now help to intensify armed struggle which was "in full swing".

The end of the road, Mr Nkomo says

The document then gave details of Government proposals for a three-tier assembly in which a third of the seats would be for whites, a third for Africans and a third would be national seats. Mr Ian Smith, Prime Minister, called on the British Government to actively in resolving the institutional issue.

Two teams met for just 40 minutes in a Salisbury hotel and then separated. In a statement issued immediately afterwards, they said: "We have had lengthy discussions and a considerable amount of work has been done in a period of months. We now reach the end of the road. We therefore breaking off the talks. This will provide an opportunity for consultation and consideration."

Mr Nkomo said that in the end the talks broke down on the single and fundamental issue of majority rule now. He said that after months of evasiveness and prevarication by the regime it had become clear during the last few days that he and Mr Smith lived in different worlds and spoke different languages.

Mr Nkomo said the responsibility for what now faced Rhodesia lay squarely and exclusively on the shoulders of Mr Smith and his colleagues.

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Our Lusaka Correspondent writes: President Kaunda of Zambia declared in a statement here tonight that Africa had no option now but to help intensify the armed struggle in Rhodesia. "Which is now in full swing," he described the breakdown of the talks as "the gravest hour in the history of our subcontinent".

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: There was disappointment but no surprise in South Africa at the news. Official reaction was cautious and must be an early transition to majority rule in Rhodesia.

Mr Vorster, the Prime Minister, who has been working hard to bring about an agreement between the Rhodesian Government and the black nationalists, tried to put on as brave a face as possible when asked to comment.

He said the talks did not seem to have broken down completely and the door still appeared open for a resumption of the discussions. He did not wish to say anything which might prejudice possible further negotiations.

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Head count confirms Mr Callaghan's strength

By Michael Hatfield

The final round in the leadership for the Labour Party looked last night as if it could be fought out between Mr Callaghan, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment.

While appearances may prove to be illusory and confidential declarations of support temporary, there were signs that the campaign being run by Mr Jenkins's supporters was beginning to falter and that he would be eliminated in the penultimate ballot.

The calculations were being based on the following assumptions: the votes for Mr Wedgwood Benn, numbering about 20 at most, would pass to Mr Foot, and that early support for Mr Healey, a late entrant and Mr Crosland, would, in the main, go to Mr Callaghan rather than to Mr Jenkins or Mr Foot.

If that analysis is correct it is thought that Mr Jenkins, whose support is said to vary between 65 and 80, would not have enough to carry him through to the final test. The contest is expected to run to a third or fourth ballot.

Although the Jenkins camp vigorously challenges such an analysis its cause has not been assisted by the support being given to Mr Callaghan by Mr Roy Hattersley, formerly a staunch Jenkinsite.

While each camp has its own set of figures, one estimate being given last night by a shrewd observer of the Parliamentary Labour Party, gave the following figures for the first ballot.

Mr Foot 37-plus; Mr Callaghan 80-plus; Mr Jenkins 63-plus; Mr Healey 26-plus; Mr Benn 16 and Mr Crosland nine-plus; leaving about 35 votes unaccounted for.

The figures came from a moderate, a previous supporter of Mr Jenkins, who has switched to the Callaghan camp on the grounds that the Foreign Secretary is the only candidate who can maintain unity within the party and consequently take Labour successfully through the next general election.

Mr Callaghan remains the Baldwinian "safety first" candidate, although the Crosland camp detected some slippage in his support on the first ballot. They also challenge the figures given for Mr Crosland, estimating he will get about 20 votes. That will be roughly the same as for Mr Benn, and both are expected to be knocked out in the first ballot.

Mr Healey's supporters believe that the more ballots there are the better will be his chances, but their calculations are thought to be overoptimistic, with little likelihood of his surviving a drawn-out contest.

The general assumption being made last night was that the election would run to four ballots, with the following sequence of events: Mr Crosland and Mr Benn would be out after the first ballot; Mr Healey would be eliminated in the second and Mr Jenkins in the third; in the final ballot Mr Callaghan would beat Mr Foot by a convincing majority.

If Mr Foot did come second, it would place him in a powerful position within the Cabinet and the parliamentary party, although he is thought to want to stay as Secretary of State for Employment for the time being.

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Buckingham Palace statement says the Queen is sad at rift after 16 years of marriage Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon are to separate

By a Staff Reporter

Princess Margaret, who is 45, and Lord Snowdon, aged 46, are to separate after almost 16 years of marriage, but there are no plans for a divorce. The news came in a brief statement issued at 2.30 pm yesterday from Kensington Palace.

The statement said: "The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, and the Earl of Snowdon have mutually agreed to live apart. The Princess will carry out her public duties and functions unaccompanied by Lord Snowdon. There are no plans for divorce proceedings."

Immediately afterwards, the press secretary at Buckingham Palace said: "The Queen is naturally very sad at what has happened. There has been no pressure from the Queen on either Princess Margaret or Lord Snowdon to take any particular course."

Major John Griffin, Princess Margaret's press secretary, said: "A separation has been a possibility for some time, and once the final decision had been reached, it was obviously best to implement it straight away."

The separation agreement was worked out with the advice of lawyers: Princess Margaret was advised by Farrer and Co, solicitors, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, who also act for the Queen; Lord Snowdon was advised by Lord Goodman, of Goodman, Derrick and Co.

Princess Margaret will continue to live with the children at Kensington Palace. Lord Snowdon will be looking for a new home in London. He will have access to the children and will be consulted on plans for their future.

According to Palace sources, the decision to separate was reached by Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon alone. But there were detailed discussions within the Royal Family.

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41 policemen hurt in battle with workless

By a Staff Reporter

Unemployed trade unionists fought a pitched battle with policemen yesterday as about a hundred marchers arrived in London after a 250-mile march from Manchester.

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Electricity bills to rise 16½% soon

By Roger Vielvroye

Electricity consumers face another 16½ per cent increase in their bills over the next three months. A general tariff increase averaging 11 per cent has been approved by the Price Commission and Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy. The general increase, which was announced last month, will come into force on April 1 but will not be reflected in bills until July 1.

Meanwhile, figures released yesterday show that inflation, after falling sharply last autumn, seems to be stabilizing at about 10 per cent a month.

The February retail price index rose by 13 per cent. It was strongly influenced by a 20 per cent increase in the price of potatoes.

On top of the general rise in electricity tariffs, the Electricity Council has informed the Price Commission of a 1½ per cent rise to cover the heavier cost of oil and transportation. It should be effective from April 1 and will apply to all bills sent out after that date.

Another 4 per cent rise in bills through the fuel adjustment procedure is expected from July 1, because of the 15 per cent increase in power station coal prices which came into force at the beginning of this month.

Industrial and commercial consumers who receive their bills monthly will pay an average of 16½ per cent more under the general tariff rise, because of the automatic fuel cost adjustment built into their tariffs.

The National Consumer Council yesterday attacked the Department of Energy for approving the increases. It said the result would be more hardship for many poor families.

The Child Poverty Action Group said the rises reinforced its appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to introduce a minimum income for families and old people.

Mr Paul Faulkner, director of Help the Aged, said: "This increase is bound to cause anxiety to old people. They will turn down the heating to avoid higher bills."

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Pilot in shooting case jailed for two years

From Trevor Fishlock

Exeter
Andrew Gino Newton, aged 29, the airline pilot in the Exmoor shooting case, was sent to prison for two years at Exeter Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Newton, of Chiswick, London, was found guilty of having a Mauser pistol with intent to endanger life.

On three charges, to which he pleaded guilty, of shooting a Great Dane dog belonging to Mr Norman Scott, of having the gun without a licence, and without authority, he was sentenced to six months in each case, the sentences to run concurrently with the two-year sentence.

Mr Justice Lawson said to Mr Newton: "You lost your self-control in a moment of frustration and fury. But I cannot close my eyes to the fact that this was a cunningly contrived incident on your part. You were taking the law into your own hands for some reason or other."

The case arose out of an incident on Exmoor last October, when Mr Newton stopped the car in which he was travelling with Mrs Newton to fire several more times, only to find that the pistol had jammed.

Mr Scott said the pistol had been held to his head, but Mr Newton said he had pointed the gun away from Mr Scott, intending to frighten him.

Mr Patrick Back, QC, for the defence, said: "We have ventilated the background with a view to finding motives, but that ventilation has left us no wiser. How it came about that Mr Newton threatened this man on the moor, nobody can say with certainty."

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Ld Montgomery Summer Time

Clocks in Great Britain and Northern Ireland should be put forward one hour tonight. British Summer Time begins at 2 am tomorrow and will continue until October 24.

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SAVE & PROSPER GROUP

rut leaders ape from zing aircraft

Prime Minister of Lebanon, Mr Muslim leaders escaped yesterday from a blazing aircraft. rocket attack by an unknown Beirut airport. They had been for talks in Damascus. Mr Syrian Foreign Minister said: "We will cut off the hands of pirates."

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HOME NEWS

US airlines seeking to lease seats on French and British Concordes

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

British Airways and Air France have been approached by big United States airlines to allow them to lease blocks of seats on super-jumbo services by Concorde to America.

Both have indicated that they would probably agree on the basis that participation in Pan American's Trans World in transatlantic super-jumbo aviation would raise the number of passengers while making that new form of air travel more acceptable in the United States.

Pan Am and TWA once held options to buy Concordes but cancelled them when the price of the aircraft and its operating costs rose. Leasing blocks of seats on BA and Air France aircraft would be seen in the aviation industry as a first step towards renewing the options so that eventually at least four airlines could be operating super-jumbo services across the Atlantic.

As an intermediate step two American airlines would probably lease Concordes from British Airways and Air France with European crews but with their own names and liveries on the aircraft.

Mr Alan Beaves, Concorde

New Tory olive branch to unions

From Michael Horsnell
Norwich

Another olive branch was held out to the trade unions yesterday by Mr James Prior, opposition spokesman on employment. He pledged at the annual meeting of the Conservative Central Council, at Norwich, that a Conservative government would not repeal socialist legislation for the sake of it. He included the controversial Dock Work Regulation Bill among legislation that would be left alone.

Mr Prior believes that, given the possibility of an early election, the Conservative Party, jubilant at Mr Wilson's resignation, must make its peace with the TUC. He said: "On our return we do not intend to introduce a major round of new industrial relations legislation, nor do we seek wholesale repeal of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act or the Employment Protection Act."

"I believe that industry in particular and the nation as a whole will expect us to deal sensibly with socialist legislation, but not to repeal or overrule just for the sake of it."

Sir Keith Joseph, shadow minister in charge of policy and research, supporting a motion calling for a reduction in state control, said that too much government lowered standards. He said socialist talked about wealth redistribution, but never about wealth creation, and that as a result they were bringing about wealth destruction.

Lord Thorncroft, chairman of the party, told cheering delegates: "Margaret Thatcher has become firmly established as leader of the party and as a leader of some note on the world stage. We have shown up well in a series of by-elections. In the House of Commons we have demonstrated the weakness and the divisions in the Labour Party, and Mr Wilson has resigned."

"It is not, therefore, a bad moment to review our situation. May I say at the outset that we have the right solution lies not in a coalition, as suggested in *The Times* newspaper, but in a general election."

Scottish universities fear domination by assembly

From David Leigh
Edinburgh

The eight Scottish universities which, by intensive lobbying, saved themselves from being made subject to the proposed Scottish assembly, fear they may yet be abandoned because of the demands in Scotland for a stronger devolution Bill than the Government at first envisaged.

Lord Crowther-Hunt, Minister of State at the Privy Council Office, who had been second in command of the Government's devolution unit, returned to the unit recently from the Department of Education and Science to supervise the work on the proposed devolution Bill.

As Mr Ross, Secretary of State for Scotland, who is strongly in favour of leaving the universities alone, follows Mr Wilson into retirement, the balance within the new

Cabinet and its devolution committee on the issue will change.

Demands to make the universities subject to the assembly are increasing. The Scottish Trades Union Congress, Scottish teachers' representatives, the students' union, and the Scottish Labour backbenchers (the most influential of these groups) are calling for the universities to be included in the devolution proposals.

One of the arguments used is that relations between Scottish schools and universities ought not to be broken artificially. A semi-independent assembly might also, it is said, be tempted to build up further education institutions it controlled rather than help the universities.

The university principals won the day last autumn when they argued to the devolution

unit that they should stay within the United Kingdom system. They did not want a small and separate university grant committee: "It would be like a university system in a developing country," one said yesterday.

They want staff and students to be freely mobile within the United Kingdom and not cut in the level of research work they can sustain.

Nationalist complaints about the number of English students or the lack of Scottish studies are regarded with alarm. An example often quoted by senior university members is Trinity College, Dublin: highly regarded before Irish independence, and now considered to be sunk in provincialism.

The principals fear that they may be handed over to the assembly to appease national feelings.

The Heriot-Watt University, after internal consultations, announced this week strong support for the White Paper. Other principals have been testing feeling in their universities and say it is still strong for remaining within the United Kingdom system.

Lord Crowther-Hunt, who visited Edinburgh yesterday for talks at the Scottish Office, said no decision had been made about the contents of the draft bill.

The question of devolving the universities had been raised in negotiations "by a lot of responsible opinion". He added: "Equally, the Government have no intention of changing their position." The White Paper said it was in the best interests of the United Kingdom to keep the universities under a single university grants committee.

He emphasized that a single devolution Bill for Scotland and Wales would continue to be a government priority. A new leader and a new Cabinet would not upset the public commitment to a timetable.

Broad support for the White Paper was developing in Scotland. "A lot of the criticism has been based on a misunderstanding of what has been proposed," he said.

Labour test: The breakfast Scottish Labour Party is planning to test its strength by fighting the official Labour Party in a by-election to fill a vacancy on Glasgow council (a Staff Reporter writes).

That would effectively end the Labour party's hopes for a reconciliation to allow some of its youngest and keenest Scottish workers to return to the fold.

Amendments next week to the dock work Bill

By Our Political Staff

Government amendments to the Dock Work Regulation Bill should be tabled early next week, after consultations with trade unions worried that the Bill could provide jobs for dockers at the expense of other unions.

The Bill has been under heavy pressure in standing committee from Opposition MPs who believe it could give the dockers a stranglehold on Britain's trade. Some Labour MPs on the committee have also been unhappy about the provisions. Their concern and that of unions who fear their members could be affected by centres on the classification of dock work in the Bill.

The Government is expected to seek to amend clauses on the procedure under which cargo-handling operations at particular premises are classified as dock work.

One committee member, Mr Edward Leadbitter, the Labour MP for Hartlepool, said yesterday that they wanted more information. "The definitions

of dock work must be clear and distinct."

He said the Government had been doing a lot of hand talking with such interested bodies as the trade unions, and was now coming forward with amendments.

The Bill would extend the present dock labour scheme to cargo handling work within five miles of the sea or any inland waterway opening to the sea.

Conservatives are complaining about the extent of that area, as shown yesterday on a sharp blow in to the Department of Employment. But as one observer pointed out, the map only brought enlightenment to the ignorant. The extent of the area was well known before publication of the map.

Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, has emphasized that there is no question of the Bill automatically extending the dock labour scheme to cover all work potentially within the scope of the scheme.

Mr Thorpe calls for political stability

By Our Political Staff

A call for stability in politics was issued yesterday by Mr Thorpe, Leader of the Liberal Party. He complained that government changes their minds so often that he could not help wondering how the country was doing as well as it was.

Speaking at a Liberal rally in Bromhill, Greater Manchester, he said that above all in the public sector the constant changes of policy from one government to another wreaks immense damage. Political parties take an immense delight in fighting ideological battles over the corpses of our public services.

"In education, the health service, housing, local government and public utilities such as British Rail, persistent government tinkering has left a morass of uncertainty and demoralization."

He also objected to the "senseless chopping and changing of industrial policies and strategies with every change of government".

Nothing was more debilitating to the long-term success of a company than to be in a constant state of uncertainty in case some new government dictum played havoc with investment plans.

The only way to stop the chaos caused by the changes in government was to reform the electoral system;

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Mr Wilson attacks the Opposition

Continued from page 1

particularly because of the rapid rate he has with leading trade unionists.

The other dispositions in a Callaghan administration must at this stage remain speculative. It is thought, however, that Mr Jenkins might succeed Mr Callaghan as Foreign Secretary, and that Mr Rees, Secretary of

State for Northern Ireland, may become Home Secretary.

Mr Wilson, in a speech last night at Prescott Labour Club, Merseyside, attacked the other political parties. Having poured scorn on the Conservative and Liberal parties, he commented: "We now, as a nation, as a party, have the chance to keep Britain on a course which will

at once make her more strong and more humane, which will foster the freedom of the individual, especially freedom from unemployment, freedom from insecurity, freedom from homelessness while strengthening our national community."

George Hutchinson, Birmingham
Berkeley, page 14
Leading article, letters, page 15

Probation again for mother who injured baby

A mother who killed her first child had a probation order continued against her yesterday after she admitted ill-treating her baby daughter.

Mrs Valerie Pugh, aged 29, of Highgate Road, Upton, Dorset, appeared at Exeter Crown Court before Mr Justice Lawson, who in December, 1973, put her on probation for manslaughter. He said: "I can see no useful purpose in sending you to prison. You are not fully responsible for these actions."

Her daughter, Nicola, aged 16 months, suffered a fractured skull. Mr Cedric Clayton, for the prosecution, said Mrs Pugh told police: "I hit all right. I hit her on the head. I hit her on the head. I hit her on the head."

He said until the incident Mrs Pugh had been a satisfactory mother to the child, who had been taken into care and was now fostered. If anything, Mrs Pugh was over-protective.

Mr John Main QC, for the defence, said it was an "isolated, impulsive act attributable to a basic flaw in this lady's character". No lasting harm had been done to the child or to Mrs Pugh's marriage.

The judge found no criticism of medical or social welfare services.

74% in Ulster support direct rule, poll shows

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

Attempts by hard-line "loyalist" politicians in Northern Ireland to stir up passive resistance to indefinite direct rule from Westminster suffered a sharp blow in to the results of an opinion poll published yesterday in Belfast.

The poll, commissioned jointly by the BBC and the *Belfast Telegraph*, recorded that 74 per cent of the sample interviewed found direct rule an acceptable form of government. Of the Protestants interviewed, a surprisingly high figure of 72 per cent accepted direct rule, while 79 per cent of Roman Catholics were in favour.

The poll was conducted in the week after the collapse of the constitutional Convention and was one of the most comprehensive undertaken in the province. Altogether 1,007 adults were

interviewed in 50 different polling districts.

A significant result showed that a tenth of those interviewed approved of violence to achieve political ends, a disturbing increase from the 2 per cent who answered "yes" in a similar poll after the collapse of the power-sharing Executive two years ago.

Numerically the proportion indicates a total of 100,000 people in the province favouring politically-motivated violence. The question asked was: "Have you approved of the use of violence to achieve political objectives?"

Questioned later, Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "Statistics must always be looked at carefully. But the figures really mean what they appear to say. I think it is extremely worrying for Northern Ireland."

Of the Protestants and

Roman Catholics questioned, 70 per cent were in favour of some form of power-sharing though not necessarily as their first choice for a future regional government.

As well as providing little comfort for the loyalist hard-liners, the poll showed that 53 per cent of Roman Catholics were still in favour of the Army remaining in the province.

Three terrorist bombs exploded near the centre of Belfast yesterday. One, thrown into a crowded Roman Catholic betting shop, slightly injured five customers.

Two, apparently planted later by the Provisional IRA, exploded near the much-bombed Europa hotel, badly damaging a car showroom and an auction market.

Earlier, Mr John Biggs-Davison, an Opposition front bench spokesman on Northern Ireland, attacked the Government for

not taking a sufficiently harsh line against terrorists. He contrasted its attitude to the Provisional IRA with that shown in recent months by the Government of the Irish Republic.

"Crucial" inquiry: A report on Northern Ireland's economic and industrial affairs is to be prepared within three months, Mr Orme, Minister of State for Northern Ireland, announced yesterday. He described the inquiry as absolutely crucial for future growth and stability in the province.

Speaking at Stormont Castle, Mr Orme also announced a separate inquiry into the financial structure of the Northern Ireland electricity service, and the formation of a Northern Ireland development agency with sweeping powers to encourage industry and investment.

Mr Peart denies 'illegal' action on skimmed milk

By Our Political Staff

Suggestions from the Conservatives that the Government acted without proper authority in introducing the scheme to deal with the EEC skimmed milk powder surplus, have been rejected by Mr Peart, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

In a letter to Mr Francis Pym, the opposition spokesman on agriculture, published yesterday, Mr Peart explained that the European Parliament had only reserved its position on an associated scheme concerning aid for the private storage of vegetable protein.

However, the scheme for the incorporation of some of the skimmed milk powder "mountain" into animal feed had not been affected in any way. The regulation of the EEC's Council

of Ministers came fully into operation on April 1, he said, adding that the provisions relating to imports came into effect yesterday.

The European Parliament reserved its position on the scheme to provide financial aid for the private storage of such vegetable proteins as soyabean, since it wanted further information. Mr Peart said this scheme would not now come into operation on April 1.

Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Price and Consumer Protection, told food manufacturers in London on Tuesday that the EEC had a "highly cost-effective way" of getting rid of its skimmed milk surplus, not a "highly cost-effective way", as reported.

Third summons unlucky for drainage board

The Muckfleet and South Flegg Drainage Board poured £45 down the drain when it sent a final demand and summons for non-payment of rates.

It was the third year in succession that it had taken the action against Mr and Mrs Charles Cooke, of Yarmouth Road, Caister, Norfolk. As for the third year in succession it was in the wrong: the Cookes, as before, had paid on time.

They answered the summons and asked for costs. Mrs Cooke told Great Yarmouth magistrates that she and her husband had incurred legal costs and she had lost a day's earnings.

Mr J. L. Fielding, the board's surveyor, said that Barclays Bank had failed to produce the necessary slip saying Mrs Cooke had paid.

The magistrates agreed with Mr Keith Dowdell, for the Cookes, that three wrong summonses were two too many and ordered the board to pay the Cookes £45.

£30m Beit art collection goes to charity

Paintings stolen two years ago and recovered are in a £30m collection presented to a newly formed Irish charitable foundation. They belong to Sir Alfred Beit.

Nineteen of the masterpieces in the collection, recognized as one of Europe's richest, were stolen by a gang including Bridget Rose Dugdale when Sir Alfred's eighteenth-century mansion in Co Wicklow was raided.

Miss Dugdale is serving nine years for her part in the crime. The formation of the foundation was announced last night. It is likely to be up to two years before the scheme is completed.

Sir Alfred's home is to be used for educational and cultural activities.

Revenge seeker almost wrecked a town centre

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

Warren Kirby, aged 20, a fairground worker, almost wrecked the centre of Farnworth, a small mill town near Bolton, in his attempt to take revenge for an accident that happened four years ago, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Leslie Portnoy, for the prosecution, said that Mr Kirby, of Millmoor Road, Higher Croft, Blackburn, put an acetylene cylinder on a fire causing an explosion which wrecked a factory and damaged 10 shops, four houses and a coal-operated laundry.

A piece of metal weighing 81 lb was hurled 300 yards and landed on a wall between two houses, blowing a teenage girl

out of bed. Damage was estimated at more than £3,500. All Mr Kirby had intended to do was to damage the acetylene cylinder in revenge for an accident in which four of his fingers were injured.

After that accident, Mr Kirby "rightly or wrongly" blamed a man called Rodney Harrison. On December 20, last year, Mr Harrison left his lorry and the acetylene cylinder while he had been doing spare-time work. Mr Kirby put the cylinder on a fire on which unwanted property was being burnt.

Mr Kirby pleaded guilty to damaging the acetylene cylinder, was sentenced to six months imprisonment, suspended for two years, by Judge Sir William Morris.

Consumer advice Caravan for shoppers

By a Staff Reporter

It was part of the Government's consumerisation policy to encourage the provision of pre-shopping advice. Mrs Williams, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said at the official opening yesterday of Lambeth Borough Council's mobile consumer advice centre, the first of its kind in London.

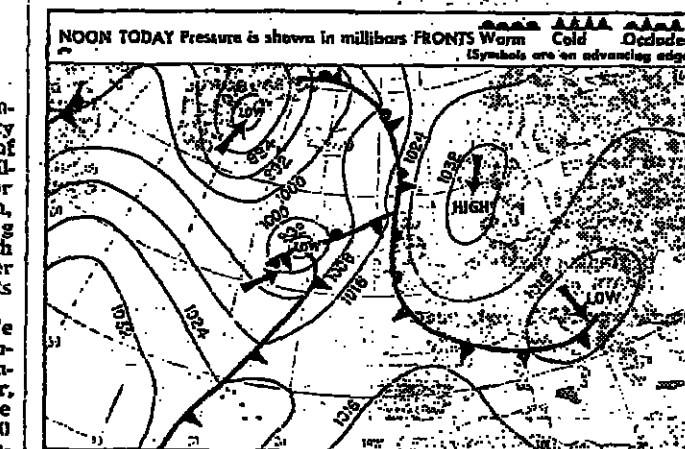
The Government had made £1.4m available to local authorities to set up 49 more consumer advice centres this year, bringing consumer advice within the reach of nearly 10 million more people throughout the country, he said.

Seventy-five centres had been set up.

Lambeth's 20ft purpose-built consumer advice caravan will make regular visits to places not served by the council's centre in Brixton. A third centre is to be opened in Lambeth West later this year.

Councillor Derek Prentice, chairman of the health and consumer services committee, said many people who most needed advice and help, such as the elderly, the disabled, and mothers with young children, sometimes found it impossible to get to the Brixton Centre.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises: 6.3 am	Sun sets: 6.14 pm	Sun rises: 7.1 am	Sun sets: 7.16 pm
Moon rises: 8.15 am	Moon sets: 12.20 am	Moon rises: 12.20 am	Moon sets: 10.4 am
Last quarter: March 22. Lighting up: 6.44 pm to 6.21 am BST.		Last quarter: Tomorrow. Lighting up: 7.46 pm to 6.29 am.	
High water: London Bridge, 4.27 am, 7.7m (25.1ft); 4.54 pm, 7.3m (23.9ft). Avonmouth, 10.5 am, 12.3m (40.6ft); 10.23 pm, 12.3m (40.6ft). Dover, 1.34 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 1.59 pm, 6.6m (21.6ft). Hull, 8.34 am, 7.3m (24.1ft); 9.14 pm, 7.5m (24.5ft). Liverpool, 1.48 am, 9.5m (31.3ft); 2.8 pm, 9.4m (30.7ft).		High water: London Bridge, 6.14 am, 7.3m (24.1ft); 6.40 pm, 6.9m (22.5ft). Avonmouth, 11.44 am, 12.3m (40.3ft). Dover, 3.19 am, 6.6m (21.5ft); 3.46 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft). Hull, 10.37 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 11.4 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft). Liverpool, 3.33 am, 9.1m (29.7ft); 3.56 pm, 8.7m (28.7ft). British Summer Time begins 2.0 am tomorrow.	

Airport raid charge

Peter William Thorne, aged 27, a British Airways courier, of Stoney End, Highfield Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, will appear at Uxbridge Magistrates Court today charged in connection with the £60,000 heist at Heathrow airport last Thursday.

Woman wins her claim under Equal Pay act

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Mrs Valerie Perry, aged 34, yesterday won a claim under the Equal Pay Act against her employers, Doulton Insulators Ltd, of Tamworth, Staffordshire. The company was ordered to scrap a job grading scheme.

Mrs Perry, of St Edith's Close, Tamworth, told Birmingham Industrial Tribunal that before the Equal Pay Act became law women working with her often did the same jobs as men, but for two thirds of a man's pay.

Since the Act, the jobs had

been split into two grades and in the past three months women had done only grade B jobs. Mr Raymond Mole, personnel manager, said that piecework wages on grade A jobs averaged £60 a week, and on grade B jobs, £48. If wage rates were increased the firm's products might be priced out of the market.

Mrs Perry was elected as a spokeswoman by the 70 women working for Doulton Insulators. She said that about six women would receive equal pay as a result of the tribunal's decision.

Commons move on Katyn monument letter

By a Staff Reporter

Sir Frederic Bennett, Conservative MP for Torbay and vice-chairman of the Katyn Memorial Fund, tabled a Commons motion yesterday deploring the "improper conduct" of the Soviet Embassy in its attempts to prevent the erection of a monument in Gunnersbury cemetery, London, to the 14,471 Polish officers who were allegedly massacred in and around Katyn in Russia in 1940.

The motion, which is down for debate on Monday, follows a letter from Mr Vladimir Semenov, Minister-Counsellor of the embassy, to Mrs B. Sundin-Smith, Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea, calling on the council to "find a way to prevent" the memorial.

Volkswagen car prices go up

Prices of Volkswagen cars are going up by an average 7.5 per cent immediately, but dealers already in stock at VW-Andi dealers are unaffected. The company blames the fall in the value of sterling.

Volkswagen GB said the new standard Polo model will rise by 5.8 per cent, from £1,798 to £1,798, and the Audi 80 LS by 10 per cent, from £2,665 to £2,945. The prices include all taxes.

Weather reports yesterday

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:										Channel Islands, SW England									
London: SE, central S, NW, W, NW																			

HOME NEWS

Cots police
law
and order
as gone

Law and order has "gone by the board" in Scotland, and the moral has been replaced by over-liberalism, says a leading Scottish politician.

Sergeant Joseph Black, head of the Scottish Police Federation, said yesterday: "The moral has been replaced by over-liberalism, and the moral has been replaced by over-liberalism."

He made his comments as the federation published a pamphlet, directed to public, entitled *Do you want law and order?*

Reflects deep police concern about the growing wave of juvenile crime and crime in Scotland, and asks the public to put their fears to rest.

Mr Black said that the tide of dealing with juvenile crime was "destroying the life of the police service."

A pamphlet says the federal government is convinced that the law in juvenile crime has been caused by a breakdown of discipline in the home and at school, the amount of "harmful" TV, and the judicial system with the situation.

He thinks that parents must be prepared to accept responsibility and discipline their children, and be held responsible for any damage done by them, it declares.

The federation says it knows a link between alcohol and crime, and that remedial action is not readily available in Scottish prisons.

Mr Black agrees that it is all but well and dangerous, and often found in school playgrounds, public areas, or where groups of children are. "We believe that a found loitering in these areas must prove to police and the court that there is a lawless area."

Mr Black agreed that recommendation contra a fundamental principle of justice, but he said it was necessary because of the need to protect the public from a sexual offender, but doing nothing until a crime is committed.

**Former British
n Fein
der jailed**

Using broke our yesterday in police and the public. Special Criminal Court, just before Brendan, aged 42, was jailed for 18 months for belonging to the IRA.

Magill, who once directed the Sinn Féin in Britain, refused to answer the question before the court.

**Bill for hanging
erendum**

Representatives of Scotland's 100,000 prisoners officers day demanded a referendum on capital punishment in Scotland.

Scottish Prison Officers' Association annual conference agreed that most supported its view that punishment should be a back.

er explodes

Electric water heater exploded in an office block 200 ft high, causing extensive damage. No one was injured, a woman in the building was passing it when it exploded.

**Law Society control
legal centres, MP says**

Mr Geddes, Labour MP for South, asked the Chancellor to assume the Law Society's powers over legal centres.

It was yesterday that he was asked by the Law Society's grant Hillingdon City Law Centre, London, from the society's practice adviser, and "touting" which it to operate effectively.

Law Society, Mr Ashley said not make objective about providing legal services for people in need.

He suggested the Lord Chancellor should seek immediate action with the Law on transferring responsibility if it was unwilling to do so.

Mr Ashley said he would be widely supported in Parliament.

British Legal Association, represents one in ten of

Unanswered question after bizarre case with Liberal Party as backdrop
Mystery of a confrontation on the moors

From Trevor Fishlock
Exeter

Although Andrew Gino Newton, who was jailed for two years yesterday for possessing a pistol with intent to endanger life, was the central character in the case, he appeared, in a curious way, to be merely an actor in a larger drama. Inevitably, the troubles of Mr Jeremy Thorpe and the Liberal Party formed the backdrop, and in the witness box and out of it, Mr Norman Scott, the chief prosecution witness, attracted the attention.

The court was told that the police investigations had disclosed a link between Mr Newton and anyone in the Liberal Party. But, in the end, a mystery remained: why did Mr Newton, armed with a pistol,

seek out Mr Scott on October 24, last year, take him to Exmoor, shoot his dog and then try to fire more shots, cursing as the gun jammed?

It was three months after the encounter on the moor that Mr Scott came to public attention. At Barnstaple magistrates' court, protected by the privilege of a courtroom, he said he was being hounded because of a relationship with Mr Thorpe. Mr Thorpe's present difficulties as party leader have resulted largely from that outbreak.

Mr Scott, who is 36, is a strange character. Hawk-faced and of nervous demeanour, he is neurotic, insecure, a highly strung, sharp-witted, a homosexual with a penchant for outrageous "camp" jokes, a compulsive talker who does not

find his present notoriety oppressive, a man possessed by a belief that he has been unjustly treated.

He has worked from time to time as a horse trainer and model; on his passport he describes his occupation as "gentleman".

He has written a manuscript which, he says, is an account of his life and relationships. His former confidant, Mr Gordon Winter, who is now in South Africa, has tried, but failed, to tell the story in Fleet Street and elsewhere.

Mr Scott has said that he feels in danger because of his past.

Mr Newton's story to the court was that he was being blackmailed by Mr Scott. He said that a nude photograph of himself that he sent to a

magazine to attract a female sex partner, somehow came into Mr Scott's possession and that Mr Scott was demanding £4 a month or threatening otherwise to show the photograph to the airline for which Mr Newton worked.

Mr Newton said he wanted to fire the pistol to frighten Mr Scott into stopping the blackmail.

As the four-day trial ended, the mystery remained. The question was asked by the judge and by the prosecution and defence counsel: Why did Mr Newton, a pilot with a promising career ahead, a man of hitherto good character, gamble everything by borrowing a gun, and driving from Blackpool to north Devon to confront Mr Scott on the windswept moor?

In brief**Duke poisoned himself**

The Duke of Leinster, aged 83, who had lived briefly in St. George's Drive, Fimbo, London, deliberately poisoned himself, Westminster Coroner's Court heard yesterday.

Dr Gavin Thurston, the coroner, said: "He died by alcohol and barbiturate poisoning which was self-administered while he was suffering from depression."

Patient to sue

Mr Charles Randall, aged 62, a Broadmoor patient, was given permission by the High Court yesterday to sue the Department of Health and Social Security for damages for alleged negligence by staff when he was attacked and injured by another patient.

Liberal defeat

Conservatives took the seat from the Liberals in Thursday's by-election for the Humberston County Council, Beverley No. 2 ward. The Conservative candidate polled 2,352 votes, the Liberal 390 and Labour 325.

Strike threat ends

A one-day strike in Scotland, planned for next Thursday by the National Union of Public Employees in protest against public spending cuts, has been called off by representatives by the Scottish TUC.

Swimming classes go

Children's swimming lessons at schools and public baths in Surrey are to be phased out from the beginning of April to save £84,000 on the county's education budget.

Summer ferry service

A 50-passenger boat launched yesterday will provide a service between the Isle of Mull and Staffa, site of Fingal's Cave, during the summer.

Anti-abortion week

Hundreds of interdenominational services are due to take place all over Britain tonight in a week-long campaign against the Abortion Act.

TV eye on traffic

Closed circuit television is to be installed at Heathrow airport to monitor road traffic and avoid a repetition of last summer's heavy congestion.

Peer for trial

Lord Jermyn, aged 21, heir of Lord Bristol, was committed for trial to Knightsbridge Crown Court on a drink driving charge when he appeared yesterday at Bow Street Magistrates' Court.

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legal centres, MP says**

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British Legal Association, represents one in ten of

**Decision soon on
new town**

A government announcement is likely within a month on whether the new town of Stonehouse, Strathclyde, should be built. Mrs Judith Hart, Labour MP for Lanark, said yesterday. The first houses are due to be completed next week.

Strathclyde Regional Council wants the project to be dropped, but Mrs Hart hopes it will go ahead, possibly modified.

Mine cage inquiry

Senior National Coal Board engineers are examining a shaft at Hickleton Main Colliery, South Yorkshire, where three miners died in 10 days cage emergency braking devices were tripped or applied.

**Policeman lost both legs
saving girl from a car**

From Our Correspondent
Fife

The Sheriff Court in Cupar, Fife, heard yesterday that a policeman lost both legs after pushing a girl, aged eight, to safety from the path of a car.

John Gowans, the driver, aged 28, of Lyle Crescent, Glenrothes, admitted driving carelessly in Glenwood Road, Leslie, on October 25, last year, and causing his car to mount the footpath and knock down PC Sandy Marr, of Oriel Road, Kirkcaldy.

Mr Gowans also admitted driving with a blood alcohol

level of 194 milligrams a millilitre, more than twice the permitted limit. Fining Mr Gowans £250 and disqualifying him from driving for three years, Sheriff John MacInnes told him that he had been considering a sentence of imprisonment, but he understood Mr Gowans might be liable to pay compensation and imprisonment might prevent or reduce his ability to pay.

Mr Lawrence Dowdall, appearing for Mr Marr, said there might be difficulty about compensation as he understood the insurance company was refusing to pay.

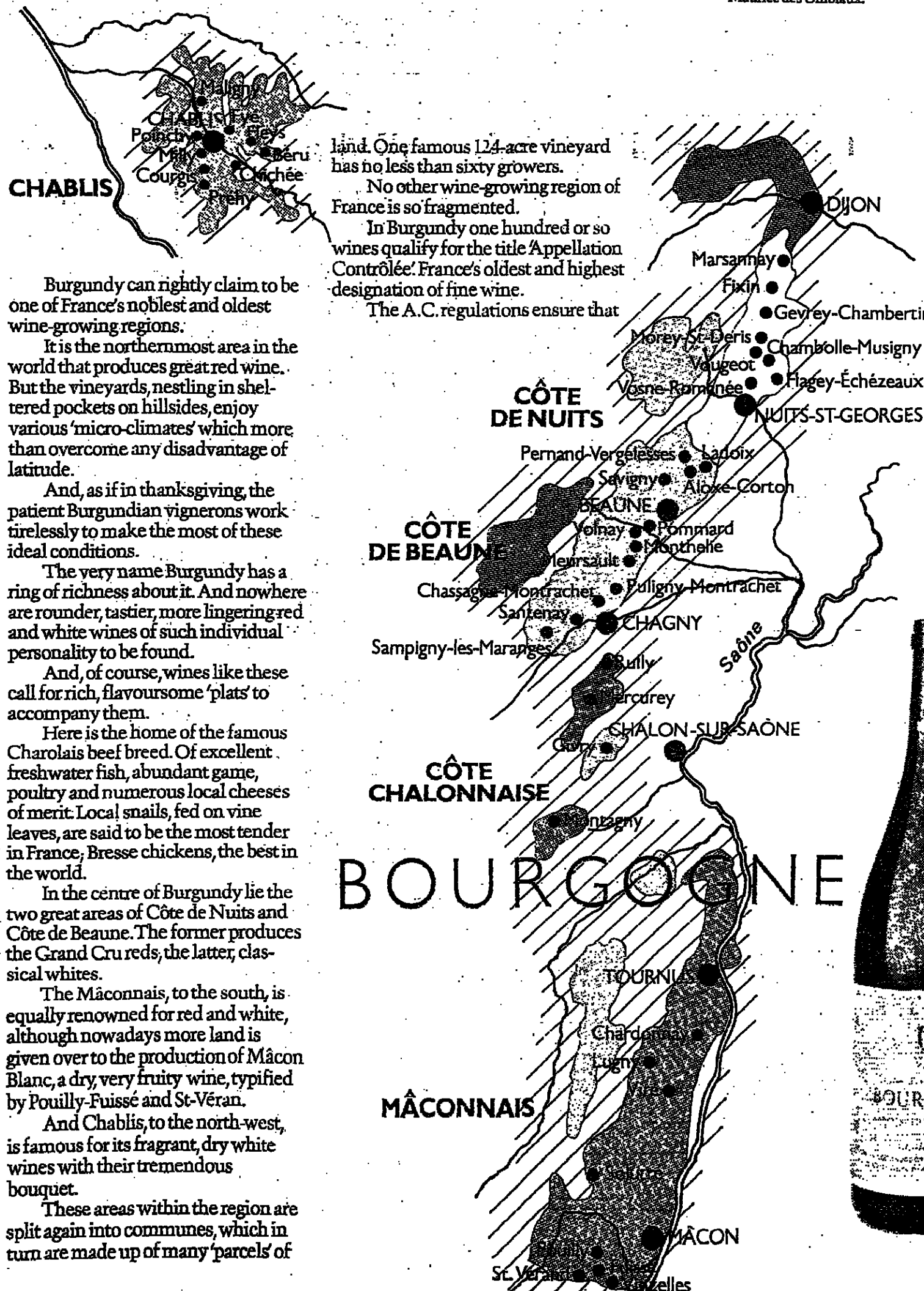
**Man lost nose
helping police**

Mr Edward Gorman, aged 42, a builder, of Humington Street, Islington, London, whose nose was bitten off when he went to the aid of a policeman, was awarded £100 at Inner London Crown Court yesterday. The judge said he should also receive an award from the Criminal Injuries Board.

Paul Onuma, aged 38, a machine operator, of Lofting Road, Islington, pleaded guilty to causing grievous bodily harm to Police Constable David Howell and to maliciously causing grievous bodily harm to Mr Gorman. He was jailed for two years.

"Wine is God's greatest gift to mankind"
**"Burgundy, so fine and delicate, is certainly
man's greatest tribute to God"**

Maurice des Ombiaux



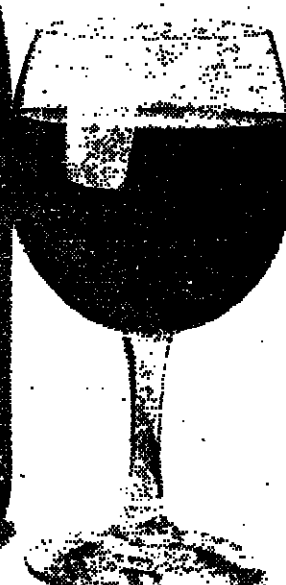
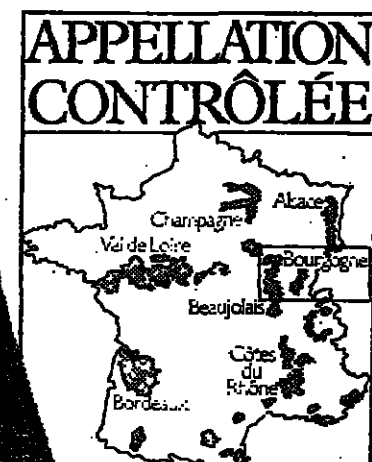
age-old, proven methods are continued, and that traditional ways of replenishing, pruning, picking and ageing are not just maintained, but improved.

To achieve the coveted Appellation for its wine, a region must be blessed with certain things. A perfect combination of soil, climate and vine. And a vast store of experience on which to draw through all the traumas of this most exciting, but hazardous occupation.

For all their ancient fame and riches, the Burgundians enjoy a quiet country life.

Theirs is a land of long, lazy meals. It is also the most famous of the ancient duchies of France.

But, before either of these, even before Christianity came to France, it was famous for its wine.

**Art dealer
wins
case over
a Rubens**

A Rubens painting, at the centre of a legal dispute since the suicide two years ago of Mr Michael Shaw, a businessman, is to be returned to the German art dealer who was in the process of selling it to him, the High Court decided yesterday.

The three-cornered fight over ownership of the painting, "Portrait of a Gentleman", was only one of the lawsuits arising from the financial confusion Mr Shaw, aged 32, left when he killed himself in May, 1974. Mr Justice Kerr said.

Herr Armin Jockels, of Düsseldorf, brought the action for return of the painting, which was being held in London by Christie's, the auctioneers. His claim was disputed by Mr Martin Spencer, liquidator of Mr Shaw's company, Principality Finance Ltd, who said that the Rubens was bought on the company's behalf.

The third claimant, the National Union Bank, argued that Mr Shaw had pledged the painting to it to secure his personal overdraft.

The judge said Herr Jockels was given £4,000 and promised the balance of about £15,000 in three weeks. He never received it.

Herr Jockels had expressly reserved ownership of the painting until he was paid in full, the judge added. That was the custom in the art world and it was German law.

The losers must pay the costs of the five-day hearing, estimated at about £10,000.

PERSONAL

Senate
absidies
andica

The blowing aircraft from which Mr Rashid Karami, Prime Minister of Lebanon, and other Muslim leaders escaped.

100

Christian troops and the Lebanese forces of the army hammered each other with tanks and heavy artillery near Beirut and the presidential palace. In northern Lebanon, the army's forces were reported to be locked in several exchanges of artillery and small arms fire that left nearly 500 Lebanese killed or wounded, the police in Beirut said. 25 people were killed in an overnight clash that flared up along a two-mile line separating the capital's Muslim and Christian areas.

In Beirut, a consular official said that 12 Americans and the two British girls were taken to a hospital from Lebanese jails when gunmen broke them open on Tuesday as they were on their way home.

A United States official said the Americans, two of them girls, were taken to a hospital charged by the British Embassy. He said the two British girls had also gone home. It was not known why they were released.

Windhoek conference is adjourned until June

would be wrong to dismiss the conference at this stage, particularly as some of the black delegations are "not prepared nearly so pliable as the whites," and that the delegates of the week-black delegates won a significant victory when they persuaded the whites, after much argument, to accept the principle of a segregated university rather than a "multi-racial" one. The whites, he said, are pressing hard to keep apartheid out of education as a whole.

Furthermore, although many delegates were either nominated to their present positions or elected under disputed circumstances, they are not unrepresentative of the people of Namibia as Swamps told me.

Cape Town: South Africa

Islands return to Seychelles

Britain, Seychelles and the United States have concluded arrangements for the return of three islands to Seychelles on independence next June (our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). They are Aldabra, Farquhar and Desroches. The decision, reached in discussions in London, was requested as a condition of an agreement between Britain and the United States on the availability of certain islands for defence purposes.

to consider some form of legislature even in the short run of 12 months, suggesting as there was once representation.

16. The ANC could not accept a position in which it had parity in the interim Cabinet and representation at a minority position in Parliament under a new constitution. Parity would have to lead to majority rule.

17. In summary the differences in the period before majority rule, the role of the interim government. But the latter will fall into place once there is agreement on the former. Most important, this shift is away from a different view about the length of the interim period.

18. The ANC puts the following questions: (a) Assuming an agreement in principle, constitution of a new assembly:

(a) the principle of an immediate interim party government, both in the executive and the legislature.

(b) What, at the end of the interim period, there must be majority rule?

(c) If so, what is the minimum number of members?

It is clear from the above that the answers to questions (a) and (b) is "no", and question (c)

does not arise.

does not arise.

A memorable week for Richards may end with victory on Tamalin

Utterson will carry only 21b in the I. R. Stakes, but he is a very good horse. The Ramblers and Neville Cramp's fine old horse, Whispering Grace, who has won the I. R. Stakes consistently as ever, but is still waiting for his first victory this season.

Utterson is one of those jumping courses which has gone steadily forward and has a larger crowd of spectators than any other. It is a very good one for a first-time jumping executive, and this year the prize was a very good one, a \$1,000 prize. This is vastly to the credit of Utterson. For such hands as Fred Winter, George and John thought of half a dozen years ago.

Richards, in number of winners still well in front of Fred Winter, has been a very good horse. He has won the Hawthorn Memorial Challenge Cup, and Current Gold in the Elkes Challenge Cup. With the help of George and John, Richards' horse has won the I. R. Stakes on both of them the last time they ran, and I like particularly

$\frac{1}{2}$

4330004	Terrayash, D.	Barnes, G.	10-4	P.	Loach	7
4330034	Black Ashby, D.	Gandolfo, T.	10-4	P.	Thorn	7
4400024	Golden Tash, D.	Price, R.	10-0	M.	Bohls	3
4400034	Golden Tash, D.	Price, R.	10-0	M.	Bohls	3
0000001	Chay Cabaler, R.	Bridge, R.	12-10-2	M.	Shaw	1
0000001	Chay Cabaler, R.	Bridge, R.	12-10-2	M.	Shaw	1
1	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
2	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
3	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
4	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
5	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
6	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
7	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
8	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
9	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
10	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
11	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
12	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
13	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
14	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
15	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
16	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
17	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
18	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
19	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
20	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
21	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
22	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
23	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
24	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
25	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
26	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
27	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
28	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
29	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
30	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
31	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
32	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
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36	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
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42	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
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44	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
45	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
46	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
47	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
48	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
49	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
50	Unavailable, 1-1	Danzon, C.	1-1	P.	Emperor, Dark Sky	7-1
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Depth (cm)		Conditions	Weather (5 pm)	°C
L	U	Piste Good	Piste Varied	—
Andermat	20	145	Cloud	4
Les Méandres	20	145	Snow	4
Crans	30	Worn	Cloud	4
Spring snow above 2000 metres	30	Worn	Cloud	4
Les Méandres	210	175	Snow	4
Long snows north	30	Fair	Varied	4

St Moritz	20	60	Fair	Varied	Cloud	4
Worn patches on lower slopes						
Saas d'Oule	10	40	Fair	Heavy	Fine	7
Worn patches on lower slopes						
Seefeld	30	76	Fair	Heavy	Snow	4
New snow, poor visibility						
Val d'Aoste	50	160	Good	Varied	Fine	3
Upper slopes still good						
Venengne	20	70	Good	Varied	Cloud	4
Good skiing on upper slopes						
In the above reports, "U" is supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, "L" refers to lower slopes and "U" to upper slopes. The following reports have been received from other sources:						
FRANCE	Dist. of cm/s.	Dist. of L U	State of Weather	Temp °C	Remarks	
101	100	Hard	Cloud		fairly complete, hard-packed snow, limited nursery areas, vertical runs, steep roads clear, mtn. stn. 2,000 ft. Gloschee: 1,000 ft. snow, 1,500 ft. snow, 2,000 ft. snow, 2,500 ft. snow, 3,000 ft. snow, 3,500 ft. snow, 4,000 ft. snow, 4,500 ft. snow, 5,000 ft. snow, 5,500 ft. snow, 6,000 ft. snow, 6,500 ft. snow, 7,000 ft. snow, 7,500 ft. snow, 8,000 ft. snow, 8,500 ft. snow, 9,000 ft. snow, 9,500 ft. snow, 10,000 ft. snow, 10,500 ft. snow, 11,000 ft. snow, 11,500 ft. snow, 12,000 ft. snow, 12,500 ft. snow, 13,000 ft. snow, 13,500 ft. snow, 14,000 ft. snow, 14,500 ft. snow, 15,000 ft. snow, 15,500 ft. snow, 16,000 ft. snow, 16,500 ft. snow, 17,000 ft. snow, 17,500 ft. snow, 18,000 ft. snow, 18,500 ft. snow, 19,000 ft. snow, 19,500 ft. snow, 20,000 ft. snow, 20,500 ft. snow, 21,000 ft. snow, 21,500 ft. snow, 22,000 ft. snow, 22,500 ft. snow, 23,000 ft. snow, 23,500 ft. snow, 24,000 ft. snow, 24,500 ft. snow, 25,000 ft. snow, 25,500 ft. snow, 26,000 ft. snow, 26,500 ft. snow, 27,000 ft. snow, 27,500 ft. snow, 28,000 ft. snow, 28,500 ft. snow, 29,000 ft. snow, 29,500 ft. snow, 30,000 ft. snow, 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Ice hockey

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Philadelphia 5, Vancouver Canucks 2; Detroit 4, Wings 6; St. Louis Blues 5, Boston Bruins 3; Kansas City Scouts 2.

International: J. Alexander and P. Dent beat G. MacKenzie 5-3; B. Gouffier and R. Lemire beat E. Faurie and I. El Shafel 6-1.

WASHINGTON: C. Pasarell beat M. Cox 6-3; G. O. Pagan beat A. Stone 6-7; G. O. Pagan 6-1.

She was a grey, large-boned woman and had a long, lined face, a look of coarsened hauteur with highlights of fatigue. Her hair was drawn back tightly across her skull and fixed behind with a ribbon of ragged velvet. She was not pretty, she made no attempt to appear so, she had a disregard even for neatness; she was not clean; she was very tall. The height, that in another woman would be an embarrassment, causing an awkward stoop, Lady Arrow gave its full length which was well over six feet; and she could accentuate it by holding her head up and slightly back, giving herself another inch. She could appear "dumpy," but her clumsiness intimidated: she was an insulating size.

She wore a roughly-woven smock, open at the throat and bound at the waist by an excessive piece of silk rope; a pair of crushed slippers, a man's watch. Although her hands were large, her fingernails, which were bitten to the quick, gave her fingers the blunt stubby look of garden tools; those of her right hand were smudged with inkstains, those of her left with traces of snuff, the same shade that darkened her nostrils and now her financial statement. These hands were active, hammering and foraging, making repeated clurchings. She allowed them this movement and she seemed at times, as she watched them closing on her lap, like a strangler practising alone in a room.

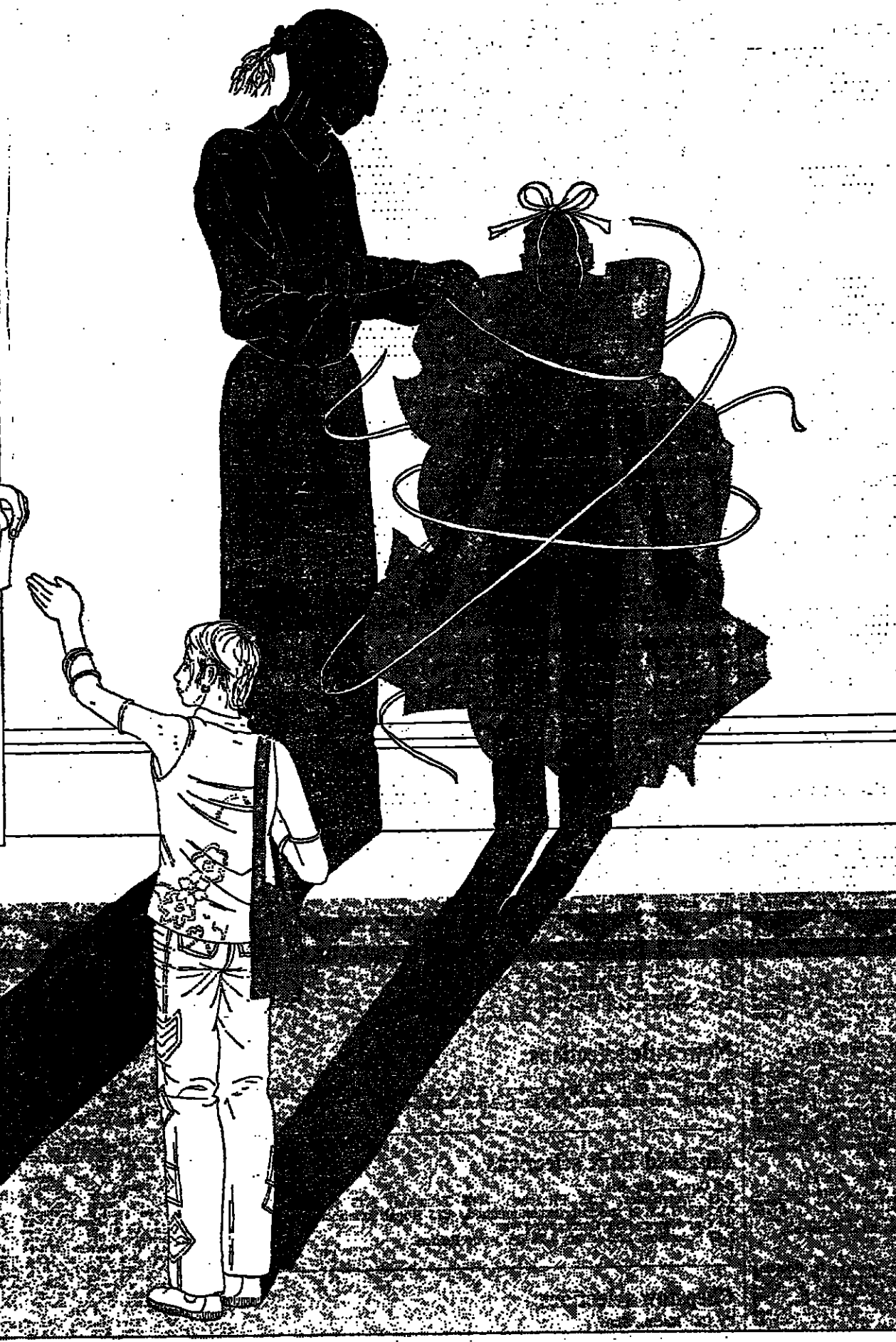
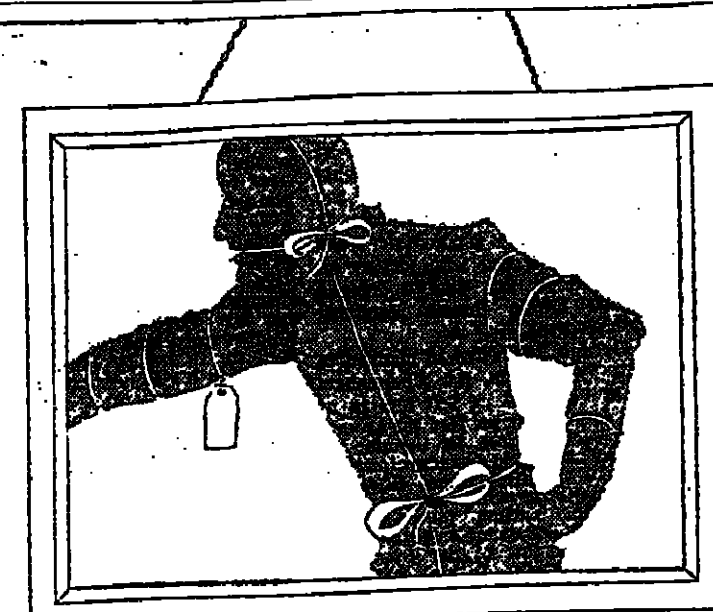
Lady Arrow was a collector. It was from her mother, an early campaigner for women's rights—there was a statue of her, flourishing a bronze banner, in a London park—that she got her height and interest, as a girl, in social justice. For rather, a Labour member of Parliament, had been an amateur art historian—some of his collection was still in the house, as he had left it, how dusty and much neglected; the rest was in museums on permanent loan. She had inherited his taste for acquisition, but not his eye. Though she dramatized it by exaggerating her early unhappiness, it had been a close family, a secure and humane upbringing; and yet the family traits, combined in Lady Arrow, formed something new. The result was a greed for possession, not of objects but of people. She had always believed that she was carrying on a family tradition; she was a proprietress of fame. Her money mattered: the assurance of her wealth blinded her to difference and allowed her a vulgarity that was beyond affectation. It also made her unassailable. She said the difficulty of being rich, the impossibility of being anyone, understanding her words, she felt a special kinship.

It was a unique arrogance of emotion, the sentimental belief that both great wealth and the distress of poverty granted a simplicity of feeling. To be rich or poor from birth was to know a kind of bravery, and Lady Arrow insisted that rich and poor alike enjoyed a common scepticism: neither experienced true shock or the deception of awe; they were hidden, immovable and did most to turn the world. Lady Arrow's belief was a wish mingled with envy: in a restaurant she would see waiters hurrying to the kitchen laughing, whispering, perhaps mocking, and she would want to leave her table of chinless companions and join those waiters. She coveted them their confident humour, and she could share it—she frequently did at her own lunch parties on Hill Street—because they shared an enemy. The middle-class threatened both—selfish, predatory, unprincipled, artless, exposed and lacking any warmth; drooling and cowardly in the most wolfish way. They were unattractive, the accountants in Lewisham, the parvenus in Barnes, the trend-spotters in Islington, the predictable Guardian readers in their Basingstoke bungalows; she feared the children most, their enameled souls, all their hunger and outrage.

She would not be ordered by them, or anyone. The privilege of ownership was hers, by right, amounting itself almost to a duty: she was the collector.

She offered what she believed to be the considerable protection of her friendship, and sometimes temporary shelter, to the mother and child fleeing a mistake, the working-class poet pursuing a book together, the rising painter, or simply the man who had come to mend the pipes and agreed to stay the night. She made no distinction between friends and lovers, men and women; she slept with both and found a wicked delight in reaching an anxious girl the narrow pleasure of her own sexuality, introducing her to the taste with her foraging fingers and watching her surprise—the small, astonished, moonlit, frightened face.

She recruited them, broke them in with sexual tutoring, then paraded them at her lunch parties—the handyman, the African refugee, the poet, the Welsh Budestair, the ex-courier, the terrorist, the actress, the shy girl she loved the night before. And she invited her own contemporaries for wine—the successful, the powerful, the very rich: golden pigs, belding mice. There in her drawing room the Minister of Home Affairs might meet a sullen young man and never guess that the boy had, a few weeks before, been the war prisoner in a London jail. It was the eminent lady biographer of a dead queen she would say: "Jim and I have been reading your book with enormous pleasure, haven't we, Jim?" and the taxi-driver Lady Arrow had manfully seduced would nod, avoiding the biographer's eyes. Later, Jim might gain courage and say to a guest: "I once



Lady Arrow's terrorists

by Paul Theroux

had a fare from Lord Snowdon — seemed a nice bloke." Thieves and the people they burgled, bombers and their intended victims, agitators and their effigies in flesh and blood, the morally contentious and their mockers—how were they to know?—mingled freely, met and chatted in the Hill Street house, like parents and children. She tolerated one and encouraged the other, for she saw her role as essentially maternal: they were hers. There were always tragedies, disappearances, desperate phone calls at odd hours. She understood: the poor were seized by the same tide as the rich, and jettied, or their friends were. She knew: she was a regular visitor to prisons. Yet that had started in the most conventional way, out of nervous concern, as a duty, her reply to the cautious gentility that led others to visit the sick in hospital wards, the lame and the blind, Chelsea pensioners and the like. Lady Arrow set off in a different direction, to Warwood Scrubs and Pen-y-ville. She brought gifts of cigarettes and fruit and spent dreary lessons from correspondence courses. She organized drama groups: illers at the Scrubs put on Conrad's stage-version of *The Secret Agent* (Lady Arrow played Winnie),

Holloway did Beckett, and Brecht, Brixton a Christmas pantomime. She had plans for a murderer to play a murderer, a thief to play a thief, to do *The Importance of Being Earnest* with the girls at Holloway, herself as Lady Bracknell; and lately she had thought of *Shadow of a Gunman* done by IRA prisoners in Wandsworth. The convicts were released and she saw them at her house, those lunch parties. She was uncritical, helpful, attentive, welcoming; she performed, seeing herself as a character in an unwritten novel by someone like Iris Murdoch, and while she remembered any slight with unexampled malice she invited dependency for the way it obliged the dependant and so she could say without risking contradiction, "You can't refuse me—you're one of the family!"

Lady Arrow brought her pondering hands to the level of the doorknob, pulled it and crossed the landing. At the foot of the stairs, Mrs Pount, her cleaning woman, held the front door open a crack. Mrs Pount was plump, clean, correct and wore a floppy white cap which she tucked through the crack, as if the cap was a badge of authority empowering her to turn away callers.

"Two youngsters to see you, ma'am." "Is it urgent?" Mrs Pount muttered to them, then turned her face to Lady Arrow, towering at the top of the stairs: "They say no." "Then send them up," shouted Lady Arrow. Brodie and Murf crept past Mrs Pount into the house, and as if sensing the vastness of the place and startled by their movements, repeated in the several mirrors—corridors of themselves—prowling towards gift frames they bent slightly and hurried forward. Murf held his head down and seemed to paddle sideways to the stairs. Brodie pawed a greeting to the tall woman standing by a palm in a keg who, with the sun behind her, and her face in the shadow was unreadable.

"Dear Brodie!" said Lady Arrow, watching the two ascend, pulling themselves up on the banister and kicking the carpet. It had always interested Lady Arrow to see how slowly strangers moved in her house, how uncertainly in all that space, as if they had plunged from the entry-way into a wide hole and had to fight their way up a vertical wall. She had met Brodie at Holloway, and had found her careless, listless and pretty; she had listened with horror to Brodie's

story of her parents, her ordeal—dreadful, and yet like her own, disturbing. She too had suffered. In the prison the girl had shown little interest, but her visits since to Hill Street had given Lady Arrow encouragement, and she longed for her in a way that made her feel old and foolish and vulnerable. She wrapped a long arm around Brodie and hugged her warmly. "So sweet of you to come—and who is your charming friend?" "Murf," said Brodie. "He's scared." Hearing his name, Murf drew back. He felt the woman's gaze bump the top of his head and he stopped back to take her in. But after a single glance he looked down again at his feet. "Come in and sit down," said Lady Arrow. "You both look exhausted." She threw open the doors, making more light and space, another vastness from the vastness of the landing. She sat and put her legs out and said, "Now I want you to tell me what you've been doing. I haven't seen you for ages." Brodie took a seat near her, holding a cushion for balance. Murf looked lost. He fled to a chair some distance away and sat on the edge gingerly, as if he feared it might collapse; his knees were together, there was a look of worry on his face,

and his hands made the feeding gestures of smoking, his fingers straying to his mouth. Lady Arrow said, "Walking the streets? I suppose that's what you've been doing—walking the streets?" "Here and there," said Murf. But he choked on it. He cleared his throat and repeated it softly. "We had to come up this way," said Brodie. "I reckoned we should pop in and say hello." "I'm so glad you did. But you caught me on one of my busy days." She waved her hand at the desk. "Look at all those letters. And every one of them want a reply. It's all rubbish. What do you do on your busy days, Murf?" "Me?" He swallowed. "Sit around." "Usually we just hang out," said Brodie. "Yeah, listen to the radio," said Murf. Lady Arrow said, "I thought only blind people listened to the radio." Murf looked away wildly, as if searching for a reply, and finally fixed his anxious eyes on the row of photographs propped on the piano. "There are all her husbands," said Brodie. Murf gave a grunt of surprise. He said, "Free?" said Lady

Arrow, raking her thighs with her fingers. You're priceless, Murf. How many times have you been married?" Murf shook his head. "But I lived with a bird once, in Penge. It was. Couple of years ago. She was under-age, and then I was had up—threatened behaviour, uttering menaces and— He stopped abruptly, pushed at his ears and said nothing more. "Young people are so sensible. How I envy you!" She stared at Murf then at Brodie. "Do you know how lucky you are?" Brodie hunched and locked her hands around the cushion. "Do you?" Murf wagged his head, neither yes nor no. "You are," said Lady Arrow. "Extremely lucky." Brodie said, "I won five p at one of them amusements arcades: Fruit machines." "Good for you," said Lady Arrow. "I do envy you: I'm always going by those places—they look so cheerful and scruffy. I went in once, but it wasn't much fun. The machines are way down here"—she measured with her hand—"they're not made for freaks like me. I had to hunch so." "Murf won a free game on the rifle range." "Did you?" said Lady Arrow loudly. Murf snuffed and cleared his

throat again, but he did not speak. He saw the woman's long face smiling at him and he looked away. Brodie said, "Been over to Block B?" "Holloway?" said Lady Arrow. "Let me see. This is August—June, I went in June. That was for the Brecht—it went down wonderfully. Can't you just see me as Mother Courage? All the girls were asking about you—you were so popular. You really must go back." "No fear," said Brodie. "I hate that place." "But you have ever so many friends there." Brodie was laughing, a little girl's mirth, chirp and blomp. "Back to the nick!" "Don't think of it like that. I'm doing 'em. The girls are just super fun. Bellingham, England's prisons are full of splendid people." Murf said, "And bent over?" "That's just a word they use," said Lady Arrow. "Straight up," said Murf. "Mate offline came out of the slammer with a cap," he looked at Brodie. "Arr—let's crimped." Brodie shuddered and made her goofy face. "Back to the nick! No thanks, I'll stay where I am." "Where are you living at the moment?" "Deptford way," said Brodie. "Deptford!" said Lady Arrow, casting the word, as if Brodie had said Samaritan. "Deptford!" "It's not too bad," said Brodie. "Yeah," said Murf. "It's okay." "Deptford! Marlowe was stabbed there—in a pub." Murf said, "Well, it's a rough area." "Christopher Marlowe," said Lady Arrow. "I got no time for them pubs," said Brodie. "Worse than Penge," said Murf. Lady Arrow smiled and flexed her hands. She was delighted, but only her fingers showed it. She said: "I say, what do you think of this bomb business?" Brodie answered at her lips, bringing a pinkness to them. She said, "Interesting." "Isn't it?" Murf glanced at Brodie with a dumb furtiveness and saw her swallowing a smile, pushing her pink lips. He said, "Not talk." Lady Arrow said, "The Old Bailey, and another in Oxford Street, and the Stock Exchange. All the right targets. And Victoria, too." Murf looked again at Brodie, then lowered his eyes. "And Victoria," said Brodie. "No," said Lady Arrow. "I'm sure you're mistaken." "Straight up," said Murf. "Was there one at Euston?" I had no idea. "Blew up some lockers," said Brodie. "Where you put your case?" "But I have no case," said Lady Arrow. "I travel with a carrier bag. I throw in my plastic mac and a bottle of Cynus sherry and I'm off." "Did a lot of damage," said Brodie, persisting. "A ten-pounder," said Murf. "Legged to a clock." "I don't remember that one," said Lady Arrow. "June, fourteen." said Brodie. "Well, another then." "We were doing the Brecht. I didn't notice—we were working flat-out. I can hardly keep up with all these explosions," said Lady Arrow, sitting up and drawing in her long legs. "But do you know what I say where I hear about them?" Murf stared. "Do you?" Murf cleared his throat and wagged his head non-committally as he had when she'd said, "Do you know how lucky you are?" "Lady Arrow said in her barbed, truncating voice, "I say, jolly good luck to them! That's just what I say." She was silent for a moment. "What do you say?" "Something like that," said Murf. "Murf's got a mate in the Provost," said Brodie. "Not exactly a mate. More of a friend, like." "That's just what this country needs," said Lady Arrow, shaking up, root and branch, the whole business. Oh, I know there are some people who don't approve of the means. Stockbrokers, people in the City, all the money men. She shook her head. "No, I'm sorry, but they're sadly mistaken. There's only one way to change this old country." While she spoke, Murf sank to the level of his shoulder, his collar bone, and he eyed Lady Arrow with keen apprehension. Brodie too, crouched with expressive alertness, as if she had had a whiff of danger. Lady Arrow was and as she continued she straightened in her chair, gaining height; Brodie and Murf drew away, as if the tall random woman was ganging up on them. "They call them murderers, terrorists, assassins, terrorists!" Lady Arrow threw out her chest and the bracelet jangled on her gesturing arm when, conspiratorially, she hissed, "Don't you see? We are the terrorists!" "That 'we' so easily given did not appear to include Brodie and Murf. They watched the woman, waiting for her erupt again. But Lady Arrow, beaming with triumph, did not see how she had silenced them. She took the beetle-shaped box and tapped it lightly on the back of her hand, then said, "Smile!" Brodie said no. Murf still stared. Lady Arrow lifted her head and drew the snuff into her nostrils with an energetic snort.

Continued on page 9

[illegible]

SPINOZA, ESTHER, of 8 Parkdale, Bounds Road, London, London, N.11, died on 22nd December, 1970, aged 62. She was the wife of **SPINOZA, Isaac**, of 8 Parkdale, London, N.11, and the mother of **SPINOZA, Gwynne & Co., Solicitors** of High Street, Finchley, London, N.4. She was the daughter of **SPINOZA, David**, of 224, High Street, Finchley, London, N.4. She was the wife of **SPINOZA, Elsie Francis**, deceased, of 8 Parkdale, London, N.11, and the mother of **SPINOZA, Gerald**, died on the 17th of December, 1970, aged 62. She was the daughter of **SPINOZA, Morgan**, of 8 Parkdale, London, N.11, and the mother of **SPINOZA, Elsie Francis**, deceased, of 8 Parkdale, London, N.11, and the mother of **SPINOZA, Gerald**, died on the 14th May, 1976.

for the Petty Sessions Division at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, Bow Street, London, W.C.2. on Monday the 5th day of April, 1946, at 2.15 o'clock, the Clerk, in person, for a certificate under the Money-lenders Act, 1927, authorizing the issue of a **LOAN BROKER'S LICENCE** to F. F. F. on the business of a money-lender under the title of **F. F. F. LOAN BROKER**. **FINANCE** Limited at 12 1/2, Henrietta Street, London, W.C.2.

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ANHURST BROWN.

[illegible]

Duos and trios



Incidental music to King *Thamos*. The play and all its trappings have been forgotten in the mists of time, and even Mozart's music is hardly far too seldom for its quality. Foretelling variously the dramatic drive of *Don Giovanni* and the grave uncertainty of *The Magic Flute*, the score discards nobody should overlook, particularly in such a worthy performance. Preceding the work with Mozart's 26th symphony was probably sanctioned by the composer, and it is an aptly urgent prelude to the impressive choruses and startlingly original interludes. The singing from the Berlin chorus, alert and clear, contrasts favourably with the somewhat less vibrant of their Viennese counterparts in the Decca disc, which is in any case not one of

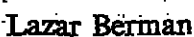
the company's happier recordings. Perhaps the impersonality of Münchinger's conducting makes the two masses seem duller than they really are. Whatever the reason I could not raise much enthusiasm for this clogging exercise in solo singing of Ely Asenlin in the "Benedictus" of the Haydn.

Les Petits Riens is also pretty minor. Mozart (some of the pieces are in fact not his), well as it is played by the ESO, but the bulk of music from *Idomeneo* hardly found time for in the theatre, is much more worth while, music that does not shame the eloquence of the rest of the score. Zimman treats it with the respect that is its due.

Alan Blyth

Alan Blyth

Drawing room song



Songs and Dances by Schubert, Mozart, Saint-Saëns, Chausson
and others. Producer: Schumann.
Blegen/Von Stade/other. CBS
76476 \$2.99.

The Art of Hans Hotter, vol 2.
Hotter/Parsons. Decca. SKL
6738 \$3.25.

Handel's Messiah: Housman songs.
Find: Hardy songs. Luxon/
Willison. ARO ZRG 838 \$3.25.

Songs by Chopin and Liszt.
Teig/Ledger. ARO ZRG 814
\$3.25.

Scottish Folksongs arr Haydn
and Beethoven. Baker/Menn-
hin/Poppe/Malcolm. EMI ASD
5167 \$2.50.

Elgar's Starlight Express.
Hargrason / Hammond-Stroud /
LPO/Handley. EMI SLS 5036.
2 records \$6.60.

Lovers of drawing-room song have plenty this month, even granted a well-stocked record library, to invite a spending spree. One virtually irresistible delicacy is the recital by Judith Blegen and Frederica von Stade of duets and solos. They are two youthful American sopranos, well schooled and highly musical. Miss Stade's Cherubino and Rosina at Glydebourne and Covent Garden have won many admirers: her charming stage personality loses nothing when she sings the heart-tugging "Record, can be discovered from her solos. Chausson's enchanting and seductive *Chanson perpétuelle* (with piano quintet accompaniment) and Cherubino's "Non so più in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with violin obbligato and piano, a dubious version but an attractive rarity. Judith Blegen's clean, firm soprano is already familiar on record: she adds to her laurels here particularly with the "Record, a charming aria by Alessandro Scarlatti in which the soprano is pitted against a brave trumpet obbligato (Gerard Schwarz) and another, equally endearing, by Schubert with solo clarinet (Gervase de

Together these sterling young ladies offer duets by Schumann and Brahms, rare and lovely music that find the two voices in a soundly matched as any pair at tennis or bridge, never out of step but each spurring the other to more purposeful effect. The programme is as significant as the music, as a celebration of music and as euphonious as CBS's distinctive, natural-sounding presentation.

Hans Hotter returns to London this month for a solo recital, and he has a public and a private life. In public, at least, he is a man of his age. We no longer hear and see him as the sublime Woman of his day but he still has (or had two years ago) copious reserves of vocal technique, musicianship, and an unequalled way with verbal music. He has a repertoire of varied recital de Loen's ballads, Wolf, Strauss, and Brahms, all erstwhile specialties of his marvellous recitals. To be truthful, his breath is sometimes short, his tone occasionally clouded (by breath, perhaps) and he does not always force the noble sound into a wobble under pressure. In

Loewe, especially "Hochzeits-
liches Lied," about a count
who returns from the wars to
find his castle overtaken by
carousing gnomes. Horner and
Pittsley, Parsons, his vivacious
pianist, could hardly be sur-
passed. In Wolf, too, an-
strass. Decca's favourite
Sophiassal in Vienna suits
this grand music-making
ideally.

Benjamin Luxon and his
piano, David Willson were
busy with Wolf not long ago,
and might valuably turn their
attention to Loewe, since the
singer has a useful low regis-
ter, an agile technique, and a
concern for poetry as half at
least of the song abounds in
poetry. The youth they deal with
English song, Butterworth's
Housman settings (the *Bredon
Hill* set a valuable addition to the
catalogue) and Finzi's
Earth, Air and Water Hardy
set. The album is scrupulously
correct, as admirable as it is
merely redristible. If, like
me, you want each song to
establish instantly its own
peculiar atmosphere. Many of
the songs are beautiful: they
should be appreciated one or
two at a time. Mr. Luxon,
and his colleagues, are good, and
forces the top of his voice, and
one hopes he will speedily rid
himself of the fault: while he is
still young.

Robert Leary is an up-and-coming recitalist, with a brilliant technique, as attested by Chopin and Liszt. Mr Teare's tenor voice still recalls, here and there, the formative influence of Peter Pears on his artistic career. Less so in Chopin's ballads and songs, where the setting, where the singer projects an artistic personality entirely his own. This is a lovely record, beautifully made and full of treasure for the vocal collector.

There is further treasure in Janet's records, a number of Scottish folksongs arranged by Haydn and Beethoven, with violin obbligato by Yehudi Menuhin and harpsichord by George Malcolm. The artistry and musicianship of the material sometimes overexerts, and should the singer not be a native Scot? Dame Janet is too honest to mimic all the time.

A brief recommendation for another much more ambitious, vocal work, the *Eight Songs for a Harp*, the nearest he ever came to a complete piece of musical theatre. This is incidental music to a play by Algernon Blackwood. Intended for young audiences it ought to cause goose-pimples of embarrassment, but it usually fails, because the author and composer were too clever to succumb.

Words and music almost always create an atmosphere of enchantment. Singers and conductor revive the delightful excursion with skill and love and great tact: when a friend told me recently that he wanted *The Starlight Express* to be staged again, I was sure it would need a new scenery.

Now these records, impeccably interpreted, make me wonder if a revival might not give joy all round.

William Mann

Beethoven: Cello Sonatas and Variations. Pierre Fournier/ Wilhelm Kempff. DG 2733 009. (3 LPs, boxed.) £5.94.

Beethoven: Cello Sonatas and Variations. Jacqueline duPré/ Daniel Barenboim. HMV 270442. (3 LPs, boxed.) £7.50.

Beethoven: Piano Trios. Henryk Szeryng/Pierre Fournier/ Wilhelm Kempff. DG 2734 003. (4 LPs, boxed.) £7.92.

Schubert: Piano Trios and Duets for Piano and Trieste/Wolfgang Schneiderhan/Pierre Fournier and others. DG 2734 004. (4 LPs, boxed.) £7.92.

Schubert: Violon Sonatas. Yehudi Menuhin/Israela Beeler. Philips 6500 88. £3.10.

Of these 15 LPs only three—Philippe Leveau, and 3 1/2 time round for the Fournier/Kempff Beethoven Cello Sonatas and Variations. These were recorded at Paris concerts in 1957, and have been in the spring of 1966; they reappeared in 1970 as part of a massive Deutsche Grammophon release commemorating the bicentennial of Beethoven's death, when they were coupled with rather unhappy performances of the Violin Sonatas by Menuhin and Kempff; and now here in a new edition. The duPre/Barenboim accounts of the same repertoire were also done at concerts, being recorded at the 1970 Edinburgh Festival. The new version is a Trio, in which Kempff and Fournier are joined by Szyreg, similarly date from the bicentennial year, when they were joined with the youthful Piano Quartets of 1985 and other things.

For the majority of collectors the mature Trios Opp 1-97 are probably a more appealing proposition without the juvenilia, however interesting such early works may be to specialists. There is a considerable amount of subsidiary material in DG's Schubert box, though, of which the pallid *Trockne Blumen* Variations for flute and piano (Aurèle Nicollet and Karl Engel) are typical. These recordings, also available in tape, the B flat Trio first appearing in 1961, the teenage *Sonatas* D.28 for piano trio having been with us as recently as 1971.

In Beethoven's Cello Sonatas the partnership of Fournier and Kempff is one of which many people will approve, and their playing does have the authoritative sweep of successful public performances (the audience, as with the Mendelssohn recital, is not without its blamishes of ensemble, as at the start of the Op 102 No 2 *Adagio*, or even wrong notes, such as those by Kempff on the last page of this same work's fugal finale, are unimportant in view of the pianist's ideas on the music always have real vitality. The balance


varies from work to work, the music at times sounding rather distant, although I fancy some improvement has been effected on the 1966 pressings—in Op 69, for example. The recordings are, however, more lifelike, more and more intimate, so that the costly du Pré/Barenboim set, and much sensitivity is evident, as in the *Andante* introduction to the first movement of Op 102, which rarely appear to be the result of deep and long consideration, however, but, rather, of a quick, highly gifted response to the music. The music itself is often impressive, yet is not the complete answer to such music.

Roughly comparable are the Beethoven Trios, for, although this is not divulged on the cover, the complete set of three were done, together with other works of his for the same medium, in the course of a hurried 10 days of recording in 1961 by Szeryng and Fournier. Kempff, the Third Movement of Op. 5, and the *Andante* of Op. 5, are less so, and it is a pity these best fruits of those sessions, Szeryng's Variations Op 44a and 121a, are omitted. There is no concerted purpose, rarely are the works projected with unified urgency, and, as with these Barenboims, the music often seems to exist from moment to moment, without building up a cumulative effect. Obviously, Kempff, Fournier and Szeryng have great understanding of these works, but they were not the best of their kind, their different viewpoints, least of all on matters of tempo.

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Max Harrison

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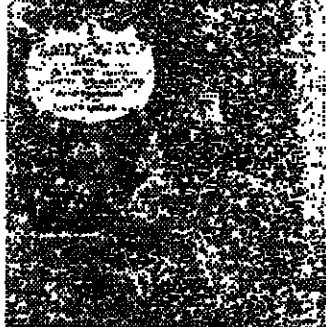
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Bach: Brandenburg Concertos, 1-6. Solists/ECO/Leppard. Philips 6747 160 (two records), £4.95.

Arne: Symphonies Nos 14, 17. Wesley: Symphony in D. Bononcini: Sinfonietta/Montgomery. HMV CSD 3767, £2.99.

Arne: Organ Concertos, 4-6. Gullon/Berlin. Brandenburg Orchestra/Kloppenstein. Philips 6591 016, £LRS.

Bach: Soloist Concertos, K313-15. Gulory/Laurens. Festival Strings/Bavarian. RCA LRL1 5103, £2.99.

Mozart: Thomas, King of Egypt. K.345. Solists: Ryno 72. Solists / Berlin: Radio Leipzig. Staatskapelle Leipzig. Philips 6500 840, £10.

Mozart: Trinitatis Mass, K.167. Haydn: Kleine Orgelmessen. Ameling/Vienna State Opera Chorus/VPO/Münchinger. Decca SCL 6747, £3.25.

Mozart: "Idomeneo" ballet music/Les. Pizzetti. Netherlands Chamber Orchestra/Zimmerman. Philips 6500 861, £3.10.

As in my records last month, Raymond Leppard is once more at the top of the tree, his time moving over unobtrusively, his playing as consistently excellent as ever. He is equally great with his Messiah, then so the field is stiff with rival versions, but none using an ensemble so skilfully drawn from larger forces, is quite so refreshingly vivid as this new set, and few are so free from the dissonances. Leppard's sole unobtrusive decision is to include the solo violin and cello parts of the Bach violin and cello concertos in the third concerto (a fact, incidentally, that you would search the quite inadequate sleeve-note in vain to discover).

There is every other respect in which Leppard shines, from the harpsichord, and from there giving a virtuoso account of the solo part in the fifth concerto, picks just speeds, without a hint of the hurry of which he is often accused, and realises the figures with clarity and imagination.

There is everything to be said for his choice of soloists. José-Luis García, the ECO's leader, is alert and sensitive in his solo and ensemble work. John Graham Phipps owes his contribution to the second with his usual bravura attack, and without drowning the delight-

Penitent

Chailovsky : Piano Concerto in B flat minor; Berman, Berlin Philharmonic/Karajan, DG 2530 77, £3.25.

Prokofiev : Sonata No 8 in E flat major; Rachmaninov : Six Moments Musicaux; Berman : DG 2530 676, £3.25.

Chailovsky : Piano Concerto in flat minor; Stravinsky : Three Movements from Petrushka; Bered. LSO/Kasimierz Kord; Decca PFS 4362, £2.99.

Chailovsky : Moral Works; Prokofiev : Chorus/Swinging HMV Melodiya ASD 3165, £3.20.

Russian Orthodox Church Music; Moscow Church Choir (and others)/Mateviev CRD Ikon K02, £2.99.

Chostakovich : Symphonies No 1 in D minor, No 10 in E minor; Moscow Symphony Orchestra; DG 2544, £5.95 (2 records).

I was carried away with virtuosity, with naked technique, especially while the Conservatory's speed became so Lazer Berman confessed in a recent interview. Nowadays, at 45, this currently captured publicized Soviet pianist feels very differently about the music he plays, and not least Chailovsky's. Berman dropped the *cravata* interpretation. Chailovsky is not a pompous composer but a lyricist. . . . He didn't put all that grandeur there. . . . It was Bellow.

This is simply borne out in his nearest rival, Leonid Karajan, the Berlin Philharmonic's massive opening chords leave no doubt as to the strength he can call on when so minded. But musical values always come before self-display. Karajan is hurried, especially that of the finale, and every small detail is cherished and beautifully interwoven with the orchestra. Berman's treatment of the scherzo-like middle section of the concerto is particularly interesting in its restraint. Whereas so many pianists stress its eccentricities, Berman tries to remember that it is primarily a waltz. Never a one to rush the tempo, Karajan is with him the way. The only jolt he is dignified reading comes in the abrupt gear-changing for the *sostenuto molto* episodes in the finale. The recording is warm and mellow.

Berman has allowed the recording a sample of him, in maturity, in solos. Here again his style is far removed from the rough and ready brilliance we heard in his recent reissue of Liszt's Transcendental Studies recorded eighteen years ago. Prokofiev's eighth sonata is recorded by somewhat understanding phrasing at the outset and by ponderously slow tempo for the *allegro ben marcato* episode in the finale (which is over-pedalled). But Chailovsky's six Moments Musicaux, not otherwise currently available as a set, find Berman more attentive to sound as well as warmly disposed towards the composer's rich romanticism.

The month's new issues also include a rival account of Chailovsky's first concerto on Ilana Vered. This young Israeli pianist is much more ambivalent and highly strung

Monday's Arts Page will include reviews of Camden Festival concerts and, in the early edition, Irving Wardle on the new musical Mardi Gras.

Travel Greek goodies

You will not need reminding that, in terms of holiday-making, 1976 looks set to be the year of Greece, for that country—mainland and islands—has soared to popularity in well publicized fashion.

Other lands have reaped some benefit from the misfortunes of Spain and Portugal, it is true, and I know from their letters that many readers of this page remain faithful to France or Italy. Yet Greece appears to have gained most, and the present favourable (for us) state of the drachma is only part of the reason.

For some years the Greek authorities have tried to build up their tourist industry, investing in numerous projects and subsidizing the travel trade. Part of the campaign was designed to bring Greece within financial reach of a much wider market, and in this respect it coincided with such initiatives as the Thomson "Wanderer" concept, about which I have previously written—holidays which combine the low price advantages of charter flights with the freedom of independent travel.

Two weeks in Athens or Corfu can be had for as little as £75, or a fortnight to Crete for £80, and there are other arrangements which give you more time at your selected destination. The Olympic Holidays "Greece on the Cheap" offerings are broadly the same. Another aspect of budget travel to Greece (and, again, one which features in letters of inquiry) is the method of journeying by coach between London and Athens. This overland service is offered by a number of companies, and, among others, European Express, which operates throughout the year. According to the timetable, one of that company's coaches will be leaving Victoria Coach Station at 11.30 p.m. on March 20, arriving in Constitu-

tion Square, Athens, next Tuesday. The cost of the single journey is £36.50, the return fare £59.50.

Those prices apply until July 10, when they rise to £39 and £52 respectively until mid-August, then drop to their present level again until the end of October. The cost of overnight accommodation and breakfast at a modest hotel at Graz, in Austria, is included in the fare. European Express operates from 60 King Street, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3SH. Others offering a regular coach service are Biss Brothers, of Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, and Eurotours Ltd, of 7 Sedley Place, London W1X 1HH. These two last named have two overnight stops on their services.

The availability of "economy" holidays and travel facilities is just one aspect of tourism to Greece in 1976, and before I mention others, I think one point needs to be made. Popularity brings problems, as the Spanish authorities and hoteliers, to say nothing of the tour operators, know to their cost. I fear that Greece and her islands will suffer from serious overbookings at the height of the summer, the spotlight of bad publicity and the spectacle of disgruntled holidaymakers swinging from Benidorm and the Balearics to such destinations as Corfu.

That island, indeed, is already being mentioned as a potential problem around the travel trade, but it is not the only one, and when the familiar headlines appear next summer, I hope the tour companies will not deny that they have been warned.

Along with Rhodes and Mykonos, Corfu is claimed to be the most beautiful of the Greek islands, but it is not, for me, a favourite destination. It has a long history and some fine archaeological sites, but it is popularly on beaches and nightlife of a kind which

can be found just about anywhere. Though Corfu Town and its adjacent hotels are the centres of social activity, smaller villages such as Kouloura, Kalamaki and Nissaki are likely to be more rewarding for those who prefer a more relaxed and simple style of holiday.

My enthusiasm for Crete—and my reservations about the island—have been mentioned here before and it, too, is worthy of your attention. There is no doubt about its growing popularity and the largest concentration of hotels, bungalows and villas is to be found in the twin towns of Agios Nikolaos and Elounda. Whether this area is typical of the island is highly debatable, but I would say that any visitor, wherever he or she chooses to stay, would be well advised to hire an Avis car and explore as much of the island as possible. There is much to be seen—the Minoan palaces at Malia and Phaestos in addition to the better known excavations at Knossos, the natural attractions of the palm forest at Val and the Gorge of Samaria.

Olympic Holidays, which I mentioned earlier, has some interesting new "fly and drive" arrangements in its 1976 brochure. They are based on charter flights and are available to Corfu, Crete, Rhodes and Athens. As an example, two weeks to Corfu may be had for £132 per person, assuming two people travel together and hire a Fiat 500. Prices vary up or down if a larger car is hired, or if more than two people travel together.

Though it is far from being my favourite, Athens attracts many visitors who use it as a base for their Greek holidays. In high summer they pack the city and as it can be oppressively hot, the general advice is to avoid the peak months and visit Athens in April and early May, late September or October.



A lecture for English and American tourists at the Acropolis.

As for excursions from the city, the most popular—and something of a "milk run"—is the drive by coach to Cape Sounion and the ruins of the fifth-century B.C. Temple of Poseidon. It is just 70 kilometres from Athens, along a corniche road with splendid views, and most organized tours return by way of the village of the Messapian region. For the first-time visitor it is a memorable trip, for the temple

ruins are impressive, despite their "commercialization" and by now historic defacement. A journey to Delphi, preferably spread over two days, and to Epidaurus, are also on the sightseeing schedule from Athens. Most of the organized tours to Epidaurus go via Corinth and Thessaloniki. They also include an evening performance in the theatre at Epidaurus, reckoned to be the best preserved in Greece, with superb acoustics and seating for 16,000.

Another excursion from Athens came recently to my notice and I bring it to yours because it has the advantage of flexibility. It is a trip by boat round the Saronic islands, which can be made in a single day at a cost of about £12, including lunch, or can be spread over as many days as you choose. The fare is for a journey on the 1,100-ton

Saronic Star, which calls at Aegina, Hydra, Poros from her base at Piraeus. If you wish, you may leave the ship and remain on one or other of the islands, rejoining her next day, or even later, just as the fancy takes you. For the round trip ticket remains its validity, Eurotours, whose address is given above, is our agent for the Greek company running these trips. Any travel agent will help

ply supply you with information about inclusive holidays mainland Greece and the islands, but be warned that you may have difficulty getting exactly what you want and where you want, especially if you travel at the busy part of summer. The National Touring Organization of Greece has an office at 195-197 Regent Street, London W1.

John Carter

Good Food Guide Consumers' bottle cry

It is normal to drink wine in restaurants—at least in the kind likely to be visited on an evening by readers of this paper. There are many such places where malodorous buying, atmospheric reek, or savage pricing policy makes it prudent to drink something else at whatever loss of face. Nevertheless, it is normal to drink wine. When the Good Food Guide was first published in 1951, this was not so. In a typical Soho restaurant picked out by Postgate then, the quite ordinary bottle of wine cost about £1.50, almost three times the meal price—14s 6d against 5s. Present-day Charcellors of the Exchequer get away with much in their punishment of the wine trade, but even Mr. Heales might hesitate to make the cheapest bottle in a restaurant cost, say, £7.50 at current prices.

It is the very normality of wine-drinking in restaurants that makes it worthwhile for the present and recent Good Food Guides to attach the symbol to places that manage this aspect of their operations exceptionally well. There are not many such places—fewer, indeed, than earn some kind of distinction for their food. Several names suggest themselves, together with the general difficulty of pleasing the heirs of crusty old Postgate. In the first place, snobbish (including the inverse form) is the enemy of quality in most spheres, and most of the wine lists reflected in the Guide office library are ravages: there will be a thoughtlessly chosen "branded" bottle for people who "do not care what they drink so long as it is cheap" and a few ill-chosen and over-priced bottles on a so-called connoisseurs' list.

So deep does this type of infection go that one of the best restaurants we know for a wine-drinker initially failed to send in its list on the grounds that it was too unspectacular for notice. But on inspection it proved to contain a sound or excellent claret for every reputable year since 1850, with several '61s still in reserve. That kind of long-sighted planning, or lack of it, is another reason for the scarcity of restaurants distinguished for their wine.

Lastly come the vexed questions of mark-up, and the conditions under which wine is

served and drunk. If a restaurant cares to lead its customers by the hand, it should be sensitive to the fact that the market price for fine wine, that is its own affair, but it cannot expect compliments—or even silence—about its rapacity. Several otherwise excellent wine lists fail by this test, and either service or atmosphere may be ruined by a waiter's discreet, knowledgeable, well-timed—will always be at a premium, but what is one to say of Le Gavroche in London, where the bottle of wine is sold at a price where by a customer's account—"the proprietor regarded my request to change my table because of an adjacent cigar in his closely packed restaurant as an affront to his system of values".

None of the four restaurants discussed individually here actually bans smoking at table, though several of the comments received when the question was asked—such as "I'm a coward" or "We don't allow people to smoke between courses on wine evenings"—suggest that the wine list is gradually tipping towards this step. All four places, incidentally, appear here only because their food as well as their wine is individual and interesting, even if not in all cases picked out for distinction this year.

The surprise of the four, for many people, will have been the Tate Gallery Restaurant. The cooking (if that is the word) in almost all our national museums and galleries has been so atrocious for so long that any exception would be highly visible. But Tom Machen has made the Tate's downstairs room with the Rex Whistler murals the most desirable national monument of its kind within easy reach of the House of Commons. The food has been a modest success in its failures, and at a recent test meal successes included unusually good avocado with seafood, game pie, omelette benedictine, and profiteroles, together with pommes. And the Tate's service is mentioned in the same breath as the Connaught Hotel's famous pommes soufflées.

The wine list is a model of its kind, above all in price: a sound Touraine Sauvignon costs £1.25, and for no more than twice that you can have your choice of a half-bottle of Ch. Lafite '62, or a full bottle of a remarkably fine '67 Burgundy, Chambolle-Musigny Domaine Grivier. The service of all these things is at once considerate and enthusiastic—two qualities seldom found in London restaurants, at least together.

The French Partridge at Horton is no fledgling among restaurants now; indeed, for over ten years it has been one of the very few places worth visiting in Northamptonshire, and the Partridges themselves have that rooted air which goes with the best end of the wine trade: she sits on the local Bench, and as a chef she takes the view that a new dish, like a new wine, is not to be embarked upon wantonly or advisedly. They keep their claret until it is ready to drink, which means that although the "superb" Ch. Canteloup '64 has gone, there is still Ch. Malartic-Lagravière '62 at £3.50 (c.b.) or Ch. Chasse-Spleen '66 at £3.20 to drink with their supreme de dinde Richelieu, chausson de ris de veau Louis aux lentilles. It is worth noting, too, that this is one of those dignified places that close their doors when the owners are away, rather than employ

locum chefs, so a preliminary call is advisable before dashing up the M1.

Two other places that earn a bottle distinction this year do so because their proprietors' evident affection for familiar and unfamiliar types of wine is coupled with a certain practical sensitivity to the needs of customers. At Kinches, in Chesterton, near Leicester, Christopher Greston has a wine list fully capable of supporting occasional wine evenings. It has no weak patches, and though there is plenty to drink under £2, Mr. Greston is prepared to back his own judgment when he thinks he has something both out of the way and good, such as Portuguese Carvalho 49 (bottled '66 by Ribeiro & Freixo at £5.25, or Vouvray (Marc Bredif) '47 at £5.50, and '71 at £3.80. The offer by the glass of Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise (how nice it might be with the queen of puddings that the chef Peter Kinch sometimes makes) or two '63 ports also shows a confidence, surely not misplaced, in the clientele: one doubts if a bottle once opened stands long unconsumed.

Much the same is true of Nevill and Elizabeth Ambler's House, Thatch, Kent. Mr. Ambler's ideas and energy in the kitchen deserve more attention than there is room for in the present context (try her sea bass with sauce verte, and Danish apple dessert) and there are not one but three cunningly devised wine lists.

The first list carries eight well-contrasted wines that may be drunk either by bottle or glass, perhaps with their light two-course lunches whose price includes a glass of wine. Then there is a main selection, which is organized and annotated by region but by style, so that a French Partridge at Horton, a French Partridge at Horton, and Beaujolais Villages in St. Nicolas-de-Bourgueil. This procedure might raise too many knowing smiles in the West End of London, but is enlightening nevertheless, especially for people who know more names than actual tastes. Finally, there is a short list of Mr. Ambler's particular favourites, best ordered with some notice, such as Ch. Canteloup '61 and '62, or Emile Champo's Côte Rôtie '72.

If only the wine buyers and sommeliers of some of the big hotel chains—the name of Trust Houses Forte springs to mind—occasionally dropped in on a place like this just to see the possibilities. Details: Tate Gallery Restaurant, Millbank, London, SW1. Tel 01-834 6754. Closed Sunday; dinner. Book. Lunch only, 12-3. A la carte meal with wine about £5. French Partridge at Horton, Northamptonshire. Tel. Northampton 870033. Closed Sunday; Monday; lunch. Book. Dinner only, 7-9.30. Table d'hôte dinner, with wine, about £4.70.

Kinches, Chesterton, Oxfordshire, Tel. Bicester 41444. Closed Monday, Tuesday, Sunday; Saturday lunch. Book dinner and lunch. Meals 12.30-2.30. Table d'hôte lunch £2.50 (without wine). A la carte meal with wine about £5.65.

Baldon Thatch, Telegraph Hill, Kennford, Devon. Tel. Kennford 83373. Closed Sun. Meals 12.30-1.45, 7-9.30. Book. A la carte meal with wine about £5.15.

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Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

A sad but loving look at Britain

With a sense of timing that seemed uncanny, but as it is the way with television, was in fact completely fortuitous, CBS television last Wednesday night—the day after Mr. Harold Wilson's resignation as Prime Minister—showed an hour-long documentary, *The Second Battle of Britain*, which took a long, hard and largely downbeat view of Britain and its woes.

It was screened on BBC 2's *Money Programme* last night. The whole system of American television news—certainly the network across the country and the local news in New York—is generally superior to the British version. Indeed, as I have written before, the news programmes represent American television at its comparatively infrequent best. This programme on ailing Britain was put together by Canadian-born Morley Safer, who represented CBS in London for quite a few years in the sixties. He is now one of the three chief correspondents of a news programme called *60 Minutes*, which tries to explore items of interest to the American public and people in the news. It is superior television; in fact it is probably one of the best programmes of its kind in the world, even though—for such is the customary way of television—it tends to take a simplistic view of its subject matter.

One of the most interesting aspects of *The Second Battle of Britain*, was not just how well it was done, but the fact that it should have been done at all. British television is accustomed to taking side-swipes at the United States. Britons are continually being assured that America's cities are sinking, its economy is crumbling, its peo-

ple are revolting, and the whole place is a battlefield. American television normally deals gently with Britain. This, I suspect, is partly because there is still an enormous amount of Anglophilia in the ranks of the articulate and educated who control television programmes—which is in sharp contrast to the vilified and envious anti-Americanism I frequently find in Britain.

This programme was by no means anti-British. Indeed Mr. Safer, a television correspondent of marked warmth and compassion, is obviously still in love with Britain—one suspects, however, he would call it England; he most pro-British Americans do. It is a nation and a country that he transparently adores, but he also, just as transparently, feels that it is going down the drain.

Like many of this kind of television programme, it suffered from a rigidly conceptual approach. One could almost hear the programme being planned in New York—it had the deceptive clarity of a mathematical problem, posing its required to prove, with the same energy as its "proof" that it was not so much an investigation as a verdict, not so much an exposure as an exposé.

Yet for all that, it is interesting to see what America thinks about Britain today, and also what millions and millions of Americans are seeing. It is a grim picture, none the less grim for being presented with the sad candour of a friend rather than the gleeful pleasure of an enemy.

The programme had been beautifully directed by John Tiffin, and the photography

was exquisite. The CBS team somehow caught a decaying England with loving care, and the faces alone, carefully selected for their variety and what is the word? And then there were a joy in themselves. But the slant of the programme was a little obvious, and somewhat too rigged. There were no surprises. Mr. Safer is smart. He picked reasons for a number of Britain's woes—antiquated almost first-generation industrial revolution equipment, social malaise, an unyielding class structure, communist infiltration into the unions, the crunch on the middle-class and the debilitating effect of a bureaucratic welfare state. It did not really take into account, however, the whole shifting pattern of the western democracies.

For all this it was a tough glance at the anatomy of Britain, and it was by no means optimistic. With its images of derelict factories, lost shipyards, slum houses, drug dens in pubs, Malcolm Muggeridge, Claud Cockburn, and statistics such as "it takes two Britons to produce as much as one American," one German or one Dane," it was a less than cheerful picture.

Mr. Wilson is not the only steersman to stand aside from the helm of a ship of state. About a year ago Pierre Boulez decided to give up the job of musical director of the New York Philharmonic, to find honest work primarily as a composer elsewhere. It was probably a wise decision, for Mr. Boulez, if not for New York, his efforts for the Philharmonic into the early

twentieth century were never much appreciated here, and his precisely articulated conducting was unjustly considered "dry." One idly wonders what New York would have done with a "wet" conductor. No matter—Boulez's appointment was an act of imagination. Looking back with the blurred clarity of hindsight, his failure was probably an inevitability.

His resignation, started the great conductor search, which ended last week with the appointment of Zubin Mehta—the original, cuddly 39-year-old Zubi Baby. The appointment was distinctly a surprise, because while Mehta, obviously anyone looking for a musical director would consider the exuberant Mehta, it seemed to be generally regarded that he had placed himself out of the running by his repeated assertions of loyalty to his present "employer," the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Well, it seems that what settled the matter was the ever-present lure of New York. He wanted, as he later put it, to be "at the centre of things." And the United States has one of the best musical centres, and it is definitely not Los Angeles. New York is the kind of challenge very few artists can resist—it may not be pretty but it certainly is jumping.

The surprise over Mehta's appointment has, in musical circles here, sparked off two fresh speculations. The first, naturally, is the effect Mehta will have on the life, spirit and repertoire of the New York Philharmonic and the other, equally naturally, is who will get the Los Angeles job? Well, to make the latter ques-

tion first, the lively contestants are much the same as those for the New York Philharmonic, with Mehta's one name, of course, repeated. Andre Previn might be a possibility, although having settled his differences with the London Symphony, and just having acquired the Pittsburgh Symphony, he is hardly likely to contemplate another move. Colin Davis, Claudio Abbado, Lorin Maazel, Carlos Kleiber, or Daniel Barenboim, who at one time seemed the front runner in the New York race—the names are predictable enough. It is a major job, for Mehta during his 14-year stint has made Los Angeles almost as famous for its orchestra as it is for its orange juice.

The effect of Mehta on the New York repertoire is another matter, more predictable. He will, of course, present it with a certain image that it has admirably lacked since Leonard Bernstein. No one is going to call his programming "dry." In some ways he is the almost perfect antithesis to Bernstein—we are trying to bring back a Dionysus. But it could easily work well. Mehta will undoubtedly be popular with the blue-rose set of matinee ladies, and his individual force and vitality is really, perhaps, more in key with this city than were the partisan virtues of Boulez.

It seems in many ways a pity that Boulez was not more warmly appreciated, but surely one like Zubi Baby probably is a wiser choice. The repertoire will move into the conventional realm of the flamboyantly romantic, which is where most of our subscribers wish it had never left.

Roy Hay

Gardening

Weeding between the lines

Readers will remember that about a year ago there was some correspondence about the possibility of people who could not cultivate their own gardens, or all of the ground, sharing them with other people, or for other reasons, the hoeing gets left. Then when the weeds are several weeks old they take much longer to chop off, and they probably have to be raked off and carted to the compost heap.

If any form of mulching material is available—straw, sawdust, peat, used hops from a brewery, or mushroom compost, these are excellent weed suppressors and conservers of moisture.

And then there are the chemical weedkillers, and I find my friends have only a hazy conception of the four main groups. I am not surprised, because there are now dozens of weedkillers on the market. First we have the total weedkillers that destroy all living plants, and which persist in the soil for periods of up to 12 months or more. These include simazine, Casoron G and sodium chlorate. These we use to control weeds on drives and paths, and we hope that, put on now, they will keep these areas weed-free for the rest of the year. Note that sodium chlorate can seep sideways in the soil and cause trouble to trees or shrubs growing alongside a drive. The other two do not seep.

Another point about Casoron G is its ease of application. It is a powder, and the pack in which it is supplied is in fact an applicator so that there is

no trouble with mixing or putting the powder on the area to be treated. With the simazine formulations, while these are easily applied in liquid form, there are sometimes slight problems with the actual application, and of course one must remember to wash thoroughly all containers after they have been used with such mixtures.

Better still, I like to have two or three cheap plastic watering cans, each kept for one specific weedkiller. Then there is no need to wash them out after use except to see that the holes of a trickle bar, for example, are washed free of any sediment or obstruction.

If there are many weeds present now, it is desirable to kill them with a paraquat weedicide such as Weedol in addition to treating the areas with one of the chemicals mentioned above. And this brings us to the second category of weedkillers, those based on paraquat/diquat, such as Weedol, which is a total weedkiller in that it will kill all green weeds but it does not persist in the soil. You may treat the weeds on a dirty patch, and in a few days dig them in and sow or plant. I use paraquat on all bare patches of soil as soon as the weeds are visible. Even when the soil might be too wet for hoeing you can still go round with your can of Weedol and do away with the weeds.

The third category consists of the "residual" weedkillers. These are applied either in liquid form or as granules to

clean ground, and they take care of seedling weeds, destroying them as soon as they germinate, and they do not harm your cultivated plants. Look for Murphy's Ramrod of Gessl Weyreter, and Herbon Garden Herbicide.

The last category are, of course, the much better known selective weed-killers for destroying weeds on lawns. These we have had for many years and they are very effective, although some of them are more effective than others on specific resistant weeds. It would be nice to think that one day we will be able to have a mixture that will control all lawn weeds, but I shall probably not live to see the day.

There is one other category, a sub-division as it were, of selective weedkillers, and this includes all the different moss-killers which will kill moss in lawns. Moss is a very aggravating problem this year, having grown lustily all winter. Raking it out helps, but the only really sensible way of dealing with it is to kill it with one of the many mosskillers. Some people prefer the FCI mosskiller which is based on sulphate of iron—the ingredient of our old lawn sand—plus a fertilizer which keeps the grass green. With sulphate of iron alone the grass turns black before it returns to renewed growth.

Or there are the mercury-based mosskillers: one of my favourites is Synchemicals M.C. Lawn Moss Killer, which also contains a fungicide. But there are also Murphy's Moss and

Speedwell Killer, and May & Baker's Moss-Ton. The point about these is that while they are rather expensive they do destroy the spores as well as the existing moss and thus keep the lawn reasonably moss-free for a year at least.

Speedwell Killer, and May & Baker's Moss-Ton. The point about these is that while they are rather expensive they do destroy the spores as well as the existing moss and thus keep the lawn reasonably moss-free for a year at least.

Roy Hay

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A black and white photograph of a small, dark boat with a single mast and a large, dark sail. The boat is positioned on a light-colored, textured surface, possibly sand or a dry beach. The background is a bright, overexposed sky. The boat appears to be a traditional or simple fishing vessel.

"Chinese Waterman at Hanchoofoo", by William Alexander.

while he himself published a book of plates entitled *The Costume of China* in 1805 and a second, *Pictureque Representations of the Dress and Manners of the Chinese*, in 1814.

Alexander made the most of his participation in the expedition to the mountains. There were 470 small colour wash drawings of China in the India Office Library, another album of 82 "Drawings taken in China" in the British Museum, and as many as 1,000 finished watercolours; there are more of these large water-colours in the Maidstone Museum and the Victoria and Albert. He clearly worked and reworked the drawings, some of them for the engraver, and sometimes presumably for private clients. Four large water-colours of superb quality and fresh bright colour came up for sale at Christie's three years ago, and were bought by the Leeger Galleries at prices ranging from £7,350 to £13,125.

Parish also had the enviable privilege of studying the Great Wall; three carefully executed plans and sections of the wall in his hand are included in the *Journal*. The Great Wall, in great romantic speculation in England; Dr Johnson urged on Boswell the distinction which would attach even to the children of a man who had visited the Wall. The words "with lustre reflected upon them from your spirit and curiosity. They would be at all times regarded as the children of a man who had gone to the wall," Mr. Chalmers said to Mr. W. H. Murray, and Mr. Murray's "Sir," Macnamara records: "I have been favoured with a plan, sections and measurements and observations on this celebrated wall by Lieutenant Murray, and have been told everything that has hitherto been written on the subject."

Macnamara's failure to write concussions or treaties out of the emperor was ascribed by him to the great emperor's refusal to perform the "kotow," an obeisance comprising three kneelings and nine knockings of the head on the ground. However, the Dutch ambassador who visited China in 1795 kotowed constantly and also in 1800, and the English ambassador, Lord Amherst, was spared considerable ribaldry when his wits fell off in the process.

Geraldine Norman

NIPERS HOTEL, SELSEY 2-16.
Says London, he didn't have
a drinking partner. He was
with U.S. Air Force. He
from all over. He was
from the U.S. Air Force.
Says he was in the
from the U.S. Air Force.
Says he was in the
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Lord Snooty and Desperate Dan win an honourable mention in British art history

Korky the Cat, Lord Snooty and Desperate Dan are the three comic figures who have been made popular today. They are still going strong today, ageless and exactly the same. Lord Snooty, in top hat and Eton collar, lives on in *Beano* in his turret castle overlooking the gasworks; Desperate Dan's Wild West jumps to have tramlines, lamp-posts and chimney sweeps. Comic teachers have long noses, and wear spats; charlatans are 'shaped like potatoes and tie their red spotted handkerchiefs over their heads.

This outdated fantasy remains extraordinarily popular today. *Beano* and *Dandy* both have higher circulations than *The Times* and *The Guardian*. And their early editions are eagerly collected: a series of old comics fetched more than £5,000 at Sotheby's last year. It is surprising, therefore, that to do with them is submerged in secrecy.

D. C. Thomson Ltd, the comic king from Dundee, publishers of *Judy*, *Beano*, *Topper*, *Dandy* and *Beezer*, has always refused to allow reprinting any of the strips, reveal who created them, or put any of them on show. This weekend the man is finally to be lifted. Original drawings from *Beano* and *Dandy* go on show for the first time at the Mount Royal Hotel in London.

The man who arranged the exhibition, Mr Denis Gifford, is fast becoming Britain's comic expert. He has just published the *British Comic Catalogue*, 1874-1974, a list of 1,700 titles with dates of the initial appearances of characters and strips—a formidable achievement, since many of the more ephemeral comics are not even held by the British Museum.

Mr Gifford has also made a determined effort to penetrate the anonymity under which British comic artists traditionally work, rarely signing their strips. Lord Snooty, not Dudley Watkins, the man who first dreamt him up, is the name that counts. The fact that his creator is not identified has made it easier for him to be handed down palimpsest from one artist to another across the generations.

Both the catalogue and the exhibition have been made possible by the fact that Mr Gifford has long been on good terms with the Thomson company, and has drawn for it himself. Also, he has devoted a lifetime to the subject, possesses a unique collection of more than 20,000 comics, and has a keen eye for the idiosyncrasies of the people who have drawn them.

The first comic produced in this country, *Funny Folks*, appeared by accident. It was to be a pull-out special item for

the Christmas number of the *Weekly Budget* magazine of 1874; by the time it appeared it had attracted such interest that it was made into a weekly in its own right at a penny a copy. It was aimed at adults, and ran for 20 years. Tom Brown, an artist working in the 1890s, pioneered the style of art work that has dominated British comics ever since: clear, clean pictures, which suited the poor quality blocks and cheap paper, and all available space filled with something going on: dogs in cor-

ners, snails crawling up walls, fat men in spats. The first children's comic was also something of an accident. *Puck*, a colour comic with exceptionally fine art work, stories, jokes and strips, intended purely for adults, was published in 1904. It included a junior page. By the end of the 1930s, the child readership was such that the whole paper had become a children's magazine. The first and most famous of the "nursery comics", *Ranbow*, appeared in 1914.

Early comic characters were

con men like Ally Sloper, burglars, tramps like Tired Tim, and furry animals. Through the twenties and thirties, upper-class child characters came on the scene, children like the two Pickles, who had their own nanny, and played pranks. (Rivalry between gangs of "toffs" and "toughs" has been popular in almost all comics ever since). Figures in comics reflected the Depression, the music halls, the two wars.

The 1930s and 1940s were the heyday of the comic. With

the war and the shortage of paper came a rash of little comics produced by all printers who had a quota of paper. One reason why Mr Gifford holds such a remarkable collection today is that he bought and kept all the comics.

After the music hall stars who found their way into the strips came the film stars (like Laurel and Hardy), the radio stars, then the television characters. The Thomson comics have continued to produce the strips on which they made their fortune, but, like the great rival comic publishing firm, adapted a new approach: it killed off the traditional comics it owned, like *Eagle*, producing a new comic and withdrawing it after nine months, only to launch another incorporating many of the same ideas. Both styles have solid fans according to an IPC survey last year, nearly all the 9,700,000 children in Britain aged between five and 15 read at least one comic a week.

The *Comic Catalogue* is a labour of love of great value to nostalgic fans and social historians, but of little interest to casual readers. However, Mr Gifford has also just brought out several more obviously popular publications about comics, including the first of a series, *Collector's Comics*, full size facsimile items from his own collection—*Run Adolf Hitler*, jokes and strips from the Second World War, and *Happy Days*, 100 years of comic strips. Mr Gifford is turning into a custodian of the British comic, a one-man archive, consulted ever more frequently on matters of fact and authenticity by writers and historians. And like a scene from any of the comic strips he is lovingly collecting, his house in South London is gradually disappearing from sight under an untidy mound of comics in cardboard boxes, bound volumes, scrapbooks, badges, Tiger Tim doorstops, and every form of comic memorabilia.

Caroline Moorehead



Mr Denis Gifford sorting through some of the original drawings for the exhibition.

Photograph by Warren Harrison

Chalking up a victory for cut-price conveyancing

Firms struggling to find a way round the law so that they can carry out conveyancing more cheaply than solicitors, were greatly encouraged by the result of an appeal in the Divisional Court last week.

The case, which was won by The Property Transfer Association, was seen as vitally important by the five firms which now operate cut price conveyancing. Had the appeal been lost, it would almost certainly have meant the end of these firms.

Last week's case was the result of a prosecution in Worcester two years ago by the Law Society against the Property Transfer Association (PTA) and was heard by Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice.

For the first time the Law Society was attempting to prove that only solicitors could do conveyancing. Virtually all the other prosecutions brought by the Law Society against cut price firms have involved only one part of the usual conveyancing operation—the drafting of the instrument of transfer.

The Law Society says that section 20 of the Solicitors' Act, and a later amendment to it, shows that only two types of people can draft the instrument: either those legally qualified or those who do not receive any fee, gain, or reward for conveyancing work.

Therefore, the main problem for cut-price firms has been to find a way round the law on the drafting of the instrument. The variety of methods, few of which have been established as legal.

Some firms use outside solicitors, others, like the PTA, use an honorary conveyancer, who does the drafting free.

Regardless of the legal uncertainty about these devices, the cut-price men have felt they can work safely and happily on all other aspects of conveyancing. The Law Society has ruled that the PTA had acted unlawfully by being involved with other parts of conveyancing.

The reaction from the cut-price firms to the appeal decision has been overwhelming. Mr David Ashford, one of the PTA founders, said it had completely established their right to do most of the conveyancing operation.

Mr Kenneth Weir, Labour MP for Ipswich, who is pressing for the removal of what he calls the solicitor's "onerous monopoly of conveyancing", said the decision was a victory for the consumers who could now approach a cut-price firm with confidence.

Mr John Watson, chairman of the Home Office, which has been involved in legal tussles over this issue, said the decision had removed once and for all the uncertainty which had existed for a decade.

Drafting of the instrument

"This case has established the right for non-solicitors to work on the purchasing side of conveyancing. The case in which my firm was involved established that non-solicitors could work on the selling side. The only thing to be finally resolved, if it has not been already, is the drafting of the instrument."

Lord Widgery's decision has really cleared the way for us all, Mr Watson said.

The dispute and controversy about cheaper conveyancing is still far from over. There are at least three cases awaiting appeal involving conveyancers against cut price firms. In addition, the Royal Commission on the legal profession is up last month will be taking a close look at this issue.

More recently, it became known that building societies are involved in discussions that could lead to conveyancing departments being set up by societies.

However, the cut-price firm feel that they have won a decisive battle, and that they are now free to compete with solicitors for a share in the lucrative conveyancing market.

Robert Parker

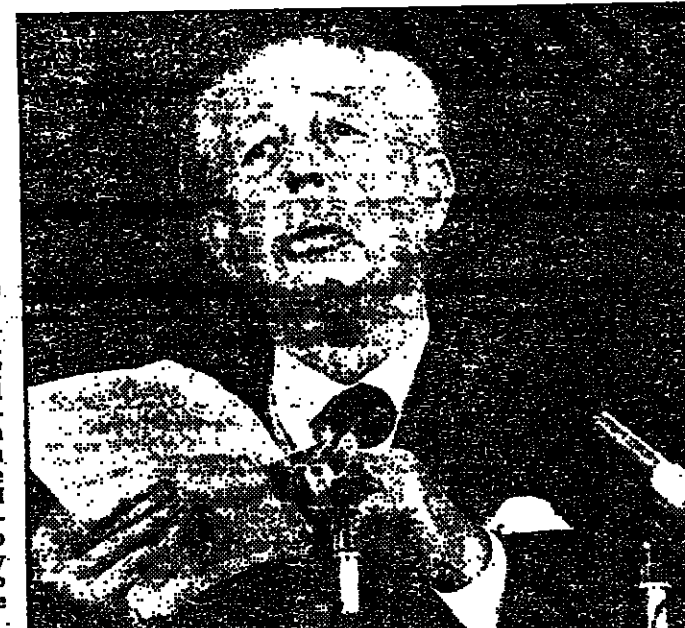
How royal prerogative has been eroded in the choice of Prime Minister

On Tuesday, Mr Harold Wilson, as Prime Minister, committed an act without constitutional precedent in British history. He informed the Queen and the public of his intention to resign, and stated that his formal resignation would take effect when his successor as leader of the Labour Party had been elected by the democratic vote of all Labour MPs. He has thus effectively removed the royal prerogative in the choice of the Prime Minister.

The use of the royal prerogative has, in practice, been somewhat reduced in the course of this century. After a general election the leader of the largest party has normally been invited by the monarch to form an administration. There were exceptions when Mr Lloyd George, in 1918, and Mr Ramsay MacDonald, in 1931, who were in both cases already Prime Minister, remained so having won the election as the head of a coalition of parties.

Although Professor Lascelles, chairman of the Labour Party national executive at the time, and Mr Herbert Morrison, for more personal reasons, sought to have an election of the leader of the Labour Party after the Labour landslide of 1945, but before taking office, few people thought that King George VI had any alternative but to send for Mr Attlee. In recent times nobody has doubted that the Queen was correct in sending for Mr Wilson in 1964 and 1966, Mr Heath in 1970, and Mr Wilson twice in 1974.

Her Majesty has, however, on three occasions during her reign appointed a Prime Minister at a time when a general election had not just taken place. No body questioned her choice of Sir Anthony Eden in 1955. He had been Churchill's heir apparent since the war years. In 1957 and 1963, however, Her Majesty was obliged to choose a Prime Minister from among senior Conservative ministers at a time when the Conservative Party had a large parliamentary majority.



Mr Harold Macmillan: A recommendation to the Queen.

It is believed that Sir Anthony Eden, the outgoing Prime Minister, offered the Queen no advice in 1957 when he resigned. A poll of Cabinet ministers was conducted by Lord Kilmer, the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Salisbury, Lord President of the Council. Sir Winston Churchill and Lord Salisbury visited the Queen and, on their advice, fortified by the views of the Cabinet which were reported to her, Her Majesty sent for Mr Harold Macmillan. In 1963 Mr Macmillan, like Mr Wilson, gave advance warning to the Queen and the public of his intention to resign. This was made public on Wednesday, October 9, in a letter which Lord Home read to the delegates attending the Conservative Party conference. Mr Macmillan formally resigned on October 18. In the intervening period he asked for what he termed "the customary processes of consultation" to take place over the choice of his successor. What happened was so far removed from what had ever occurred in the past that it is difficult to see the consent of Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the new Prime Minister, to a review of the procedures for electing a Conservative leader and the new system of a secret ballot of MPs was, in fact, put into effect in 1965, when Sir Alec, then Opposition Leader, resigned.

The election of a party leader in Opposition has, however, nothing to do with the royal prerogative. The leader of the Opposition is accorded official recognition and paid a special salary, but he (or she) is not appointed by the Queen. No doubt Her Majesty was as interested as any member of the public when Mr Heath displaced Sir Alec and when he, in turn, was displaced by Mr Thatcher. She was, however, in no way involved.

For the first time in the twentieth century a British Prime Minister is about to resign without the monarch being given any advice to his successor by anybody, although Mr Wilson will presumably go through the formality of advising her to accept the choice of the Parliamentary Labour Party which will, in any event, be public knowledge.

In the unlikely event of the Labour Party choosing a leader either on the extreme right or the extreme left, which might cause resignations from the Parliamentary Labour Party, thus depriving it of an overall majority, the Queen would clearly have the right to consult other party leaders and ex-Prime Ministers. In the even more unlikely event of mass resignations from the Labour Party, the Queen could send for Mrs Thatcher. The royal prerogative, in theory at least, has not finally been extinguished.

In the final volume of his memoirs, Mr Macmillan records a conversation he had with the Queen on September 20, 1963. "She feels the great importance of maintaining the prerogative intact... I was determined at all costs to preserve the prerogative, which had been so useful in the past and which might be so valuable in the future."

In accepting the advice of Mr Macmillan to invite Lord Home to form an administration, her Majesty, unknowingly, committed the most politically controversial act of her reign. She had been trapped into accepting the advice of her outgoing Prime Minister, which many, including myself, believe to have been misguided. Ironically, the royal prerogative has been substantially diminished, not by the present Prime Minister but in 1963 as the result of the conduct of the man to whom it meant so much, Mr Harold Macmillan.

Humphrey Berkeley

The author is a former Conservative MP who is now a member of the Labour Party.

Mr Wilson has identified his successor: of that we may be sure. He has made his own analysis of the probabilities and he would be surprised if he were proved wrong in the outcome, for in his understanding of the Labour Party he is unsurpassed, a grand master of the hypothesis and calculation to which so many of its internal—often Byzantine—transactions are susceptible. What his conclusion is I do not know, since he has failed to confide in me. But this much I suggest with confidence: the new Prime Minister will be in Mr Wilson's own moderate political mould, and not of the left. Notwithstanding his desire to retire from the leadership, I do not believe that he would do so if he had the slightest apprehension on this score. His conscience would not allow it, or so I am persuaded.

Mr Wilson is a social democrat, and has never been anything else. Unless one grossly misreads his instincts and intentions, he would soldier on rather than risk surrendering his office to the will of the left minority. He has evidently satisfied himself that there is no real danger of this, however widely the moderate rightist vote may be dispersed. We may therefore suppose that he expects to be followed by Mr Callaghan, Mr Hesley or Mr Jenkins.

But which of them? Most probably the first. Although the other two are interestingly stronger, and Mr Jenkins is of uncommon personal distinction, Mr Callaghan may be more congenial to the bulk of the parliamentary party.

Whatever the upshot, there are many who regret Mr Wilson's decision, and not all are Labour supporters. Some are dismayed, and not without reason. Other considerations apart, Mr Wilson has been able to master the most delicate and destructive Marxist element within his party. It may be doubted whether anyone else could have acted to similar

The one thing Mr Wilson does not want is to surrender his office to the left

George Hutchinson

effect in recent years, or will be able to assert a comparable influence in the future. In the hands of Mr Wilson, with his combination of political skills (the like of which we shall not know again for a long time), the immoderates meet their match; he is just as witty or cunning as they are, and much more shrewdly. I foresee that he will be increasingly missed, not least by his parliamentary opponents.

Another of Mr Wilson's strengths, both as an administrator and a party manager (I am not discussing policy), has been his collected, reflective, and yet acute perception and control of his responsibilities. Of course this was partly the product of experience. When I last saw him a few weeks ago at 10 Downing Street he was struck yet again by his air of quiet assurance. With his pipe and his glass of beer, he seemed the embodiment of proficiency, at once unruffled and alert, orderly, neat and unhurried in his arrangements.

In more personal terms, I have found him unfailingly courteous and never cold, untouched by self-importance, although inclined to self-gratulation, which he has perhaps forgiven him as he leaves the centre of the stage. *E finis la commedia*, as Mr Harold Macmillan said of his own departure.

The essential distinction between the resignations of these two Prime Ministers is, of course, that Mr Wilson is going of his own accord at his own time, freely and voluntarily. Mr Macmillan was suddenly forced to retire by a failure of health after months of agitation (misplaced or otherwise) for a change of leadership. That led, you will recall, to the accession of Lord Home

and the Conservative defeat one year later. Since Mr Wilson's decision has not been preceded or occasioned by any demand for his head, the omens are perhaps a little happier for the Labour Government.

Perhaps, or perhaps not, it seems to me that Labour's prospects of consolidation and recovery must be lessened. With Mr Wilson it was not, I think, far-fetched to suppose that the Government might still have been able to repair the recent loss of support, given the degree of improvement in the economy which he himself foresees by the end of the year. But this may be less likely under a new leader, who will undoubtedly have more difficulty in checking or outmanoeuvring the left, the Tribune Group and others, as they become assertive again.

In short, Mr Wilson's withdrawal may serve the Tories well by weakening the Government. The three by-election results, while encouraging to the Conservatives, fell short of a cast iron guarantee of office. In themselves, they did not unlock the gates to Downing Street. It may be Mr Wilson who has done that.

From all appearances, the general election, whenever it comes, will be a battle between the established giants with the Nationalists—not the Liberals—as the third force, menacing to both. In all likelihood, the Liberals have done themselves in by their behaviour towards Mr Thatcher. There is not a word to be said for most of their members in Parliament, from the soured Orcadian, Mr Grimond, to the garrulous Rochdale pie-man, Mr Smith. It is, rather than Mr Thorpe, who have brought their party into disrepute.

Small wonder, then, that Mr Thatcher has adopted a note of such high optimism. With the Liberals in disgrace and disarray and the Conservatives in a state of confusion, it would be strange, indeed disconcerting, if she did not stirring of the blood. She is, I believe, too level-headed, too realistic, to be deceived into thinking that the scene is now imminently set for her swift arrival in Downing Street. Nothing in life is immutable. The road before her is not yet clear.

It is one thing to be bold, another to become apologetic, overbearing, assertive when your fortunes are improving. Therein lies a danger to the Conservatives, though not from Mrs Thatcher herself. They need to guard against a tendency towards abusive personal denigration of their opponents. They should leave that sort of thing to the Labour Party under the cruder of the Liberals in the Electoral, it is a most expensive habit.

The Tories are now well placed to advance, if only they can keep their heads, avoiding the wilder excesses to which some are so prone. Glib innuendo, cheapjack propaganda, and the petty gimmickry which all too many are drawn to will do nothing to further their interests. The Conservatives prefer something grander, and would respond to it. Thatcher knows this. Everyone around her has the same insight.

Then there are the scarcely less superficial cloakings of their political bankruptcy under a veneer of expertise, who maintain that all can be done by a process of "marketing" or "repackaging" "public relations". That belief is again a recipe for disaster. It will return to the subject of pressing though it is.

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Sportview

Doing a 'Monaco' through the sleepy streets of Long Beach

A piece of Grand Prix motor racing history will be recorded next week as the trend away from road courses and towards purpose-built tracks is reversed and the Formula One teams prepare to do battle on the streets of Long Beach, California.

The background against which they will contest the third round of the 1976 drivers' and constructors' world championships is one of highrises, pavements, street lamps and traffic islands, and it has all come about through the enterprise of an expatriate Englishman, Chris Pook, 33, who was born in Somerset.

A former amateur racing and rally driver before he emigrated to California in 1967, Pook conceived the idea of a Monaco-style Grand Prix on America's west coast while listening to a

broadcast of the Indianapolis 500-miles race on the radio and realizing that it attracted more spectators than any other single sporting event in the United States.

For several years the city fathers of Long Beach had been trying hard to revitalize what had become essentially a retirement suburb of Los Angeles. They acquired the former Candler Queen Mary, sealed it in concrete and converted it into an hotel and convention centre (it will become race headquarters for the next few days) to put the resort back on the map. But they also needed something even more spectacular. Pook's achievement is that not only did he convince them that they needed a Grand Prix through their normally sleepy streets, but that he also convinced the safety-conscious Commission Sportive Internationale (CSI)

that a course could be prepared which would meet their exacting requirements.

Last September, by way of a trial run, a Formula 5000 race was held over a two miles circuit and appropriately it was a British driver, Brian Redman, who drove a British Lola (albeit with an American Chevrolet engine) to victory after what had proved to be the best race of the season.

The success of the inaugural event, gave the final seal of approval for next week's race, which carries the title United States Grand Prix West. This is the first occasion on which one country has been given more than one world championship Grand Prix in a season, a decision justified by the fact that the United States is of continental proportions (for example, the distance between Long Beach and Watkins Glen, New York, the scene of the

United States Grand Prix next October, is greater than that between London and Cairo).

Apart from its environment, the Long Beach circuit will differ from a conventional course in many areas, notably in that of crash protection. For last September's race the 16-corner track was lined, not with armco barriers, but with concrete blocks, which in turn were fronted by no fewer than 25,000 old car tyres acting as energy-absorbing cushions, while on certain corners debris fences were used in conjunction with sand-filled oil drums, each weighing 650lb.

The facilities did an excellent job then, and are expected to be used in a somewhat more sophisticated form for the Grand Prix on March 28. At the same time, stands are being erected to accommodate 90,000 people at the trackside

(attendance at the Formula 5000 race was 50,000 and an estimated 35,000 watched from vantage points in the buildings outside the circuit).

The event is already receiving substantial television coverage—James Hunt has been one of the drivers heavily engaged in the pre-race promotion, and the Grand Prix is well as the more important side attractions are to be networked throughout the United States.

With two famous local residents in charge of on-track operations—former Grand Prix driver and car constructor Dan Gurney and the 1951 world champion Phil Hill—Chris Pook is determined to make this the most colourful and entertaining of all the Grands Prix. As a build-up to Sunday's 99-lap race, which will be contested by the fastest 20 qualifiers, there will be running, cycle and celebrity

motor races, a special exhibition for past racing stars (Stirling Moss and Jackie Stewart among them) each driving his most famous car, plus many off-track activities including a *concours d'elegance* of classic racing cars, driver forums and, on race night, a victory banquet.

If the Long Beach meeting is the success which its reputed 2,000,000 dollar budget suggests it could be, it will be an event of major and long-lasting significance in the motor racing world, for it will prove that it is not tradition alone which has kept the Monaco Grand Prix alive, but that racing through the streets, when properly organized, is a viable and acceptable activity even in an era of extreme safety-consciousness.

After Monaco, Long Beach. After Long Beach, who knows?

John Blunsden



Long Beach, California, where the streets will echo to the sound of Formula One racing cars.



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MAJORITY RULE OR WAR

negotiations between black and white in Salisbury are described as having broken off to time for consultation and mediation, but the explanation given by both sides shows that they have broken down. It is only to be hoped that the breakdown is not irretrievable. If Mr. Nkomo is right in saying that Mr. Smith is not prepared to contemplate black rule for ten to fifteen years, there is no real hope left. For Mr. Nkomo could not possibly accept any such timetable, call it unimpeded advance to majority rule, and remain a credible leader. Mr. Smith has said that he offered Mr. Nkomo a large instalment of war sharing but it is far from a phased transfer of power to a majority.

Mr. Vorster's first reactions are at further negotiations are possible. But the negotiations which have reached impasse have lasted three months with lengthy sessions between the twelve delegations for such consultation. It is most probable that there remains explored any way of bridging the gap between Mr. Smith's ten-year transition (if it is so short) and the year or so which is likely the most Mr. Nkomo can concede. He must be able to see that there is to be virtually immediate majority rule if he is to hold the support of his faction, the African National Congress, at least as important, retain the backing of Presidents Banda, Machel, Nyerere and enee Khama, who alone can back the militants.

President Kaunda and others warned that war was coming inevitable. President Chela's application of full

sandwich was perhaps his last throw to force Mr. Smith to a peaceful transition to black rule. Mr. Nkomo now says that his efforts were to avoid war, but that the Smith regime has said it is prepared for war. If so, the gravest crisis impends.

What is one to think of Mr. Smith's astonishing comment that Britain should no longer avoid its responsibility for Rhodesia, after his treatment of the Greenhill mission, and his previous remarks about the British Government? This is the man who insisted that only by the removal of British sovereignty from Rhodesia could a settlement be reached. He has consistently repudiated Britain's residual responsibility, yet now he once again turns and calls for British mediation of an unexplained kind. If he wants British views, they should be easy to give: a rapid transition to majority rule which will enable moderates like Mr. Nkomo to lead the black majority in Rhodesia and thus prevent the emergency from reaching the point where the British Government is forced to intervene. It is now far too late to tender him any more palatable advice.

It is more likely that Mr. Smith is playing political games with his party and electorate. There are still Rhodesians who believe that if their obstructive precipitates an invasion of their country by foreign communist troops, Britain, the West and South Africa will have to come to their aid in the West's own interests. Dr. Kissinger's latest statements give no grounds for any such assumption by Mr. Smith. The Rhodesians need to be told that there is no possible majority in Parliament—a matter of fact not argument or morals—for the

sending of British troops (even were it logistically possible) to be allies in the field with the regime's troops, however firmly Britain will oppose Russian and Cuban intervention. He faces the consequences of yesterday's work totally alone.

There are, however, still some cards to be played. Mr. Vorster is certainly well aware that a ten to fifteen year transition to majority rule is tantamount to a total rejection by Mr. Smith and his colleagues of Mr. Vorster's own advice. If the day for a peaceful solution is yet to be saved, Mr. Vorster is now probably the only man who can save it. For he does hold Rhodesia, no matter how eager for war with the guerrillas, by the windpipe—provided, that is, he can take his Cabinet and public opinion with him in squeezing that windpipe until realistic timetables can be discussed. The immediate risk is that if there is undue delay there will be no African negotiating team to talk realistically with.

If Mr. Smith really meant that he was ready to hand over the government to Britain if British troops went in, there would be some sense in discussing his definition of "the responsibility Britain claims". But such a repentance would be totally at variance with his and his followers' attitudes. The real problem to be faced now is the risk that the breakdown of the talks will precipitate moves leading to an international conflict. So far, while talks went on, Britain, the United States and the four African presidents have kept this prospect at bay. They must now consult urgently what is to be done. The prospect is certainly one that should lead them to urge upon South Africa the use of all its remaining leverage on the Rhodesian Government.

plausible though it is not given to any man to see the future. Things are unlikely to work out. Mr. Benn's way, but he has a strategy which has to be taken seriously.

Mr. Benn's candidature is made more attractive by the forthright way in which he states his views. We believe that it would be a disaster for Mr. Benn to lead the country, but we are able to make that judgment precisely because he is so clear about what he says should be done. If Mr. Benn ever becomes leader of the Labour Party, or Prime Minister, no one will be able to claim that he was misleading about his attitudes to public affairs, or that he lacked courage in advocating his views.

There are serious obstacles to him fulfilling his ambitions: he does not have the confidence of the trade unions; there is a theoretical quality about his arguments which the British do not trust. Some of his arguments are indeed far-fetched to the point of eccentricity, and we have criticized some of them for being silly.

Yet we would not at all think that it is silly of him to stand now. He has seen one truth about the present situation, which is that things will not go on as they are. His proposals for the social reconstruction of Britain would not cure Britain's decline: on the contrary, we believe that they would lead to greater inflation, more unemployment and loss of freedom. Yet everything he says shows that he does at least recognize that the British disease does need a cure. He is right to call urgently for the surgeon even if he is wrong to think that he should be the surgeon himself.

struating after the age of 15 fell from 55 per cent in 1843 to 10 per cent in 1949 and has stayed at that level ever since. In contrast, the percentage beginning before the age of 12 stayed at about 5 per cent between 1843 and 1929, rose to 7 per cent in 1949 and has climbed sharply to between 12 and 17 per cent in the past few years. These cross-wise movements do not come to light when we study the average alone. As Claude Bernard pointed out, there are circumstances in which "the biological characteristics of the phenomenon disappear in the average".

Of more immediate interest is the proportion of girls who will not have started menstruating when they reach the proposed new age of consent. Our own studies in south Yorkshire gave 23 per cent not menstruating by 14 in 1964 and a slightly higher figure, 25 per cent, in 1975. These figures are somewhat in excess of those reported elsewhere, and show no downward trend.

But have such observations any relevance to the matter now being discussed? The age of consent was raised from 13 to 15 by the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1885. At that time, judging by your leader's question today, your leader of 12 to 14, 1885, the supposed age at menarche played no part in influencing the change. The object of the amendment was not to provide parliamentary approval for a revised age of puberty. It was to protect girls under the age of 16 from commercial exploitation. The question today is whether or not such protection is still desirable.

Yours faithfully,
P. E. BROWN,
Department of Community Medicine,
P. K. POPPLETON,
Division of Education,
University of Sheffield Medical School,
Beach Hill Road,
Sheffield,
March 18.

What future for the railways?

From Sir Colin Buchanan
Sir, Sir Richard Marsh's impending departure from British Rail needs to be seen in the perspective of a succession of top-grade managers all of whom have failed to check the decline of the railways. Why is it that over a period of 50 years no amount of management, no amount of legislation designed to remove alleged unfair competition from roads, no amount of amalgamation, nationalization, subsidization or modernization have served to succour the railways? The answer is simple, but it needs to be faced squarely if we are to avoid having further good men retire in frustration and disappointment.

The answer is that for many purposes of transport, but not necessarily all, the motor vehicle, which came on the scene in force in 1919, provides a much better service than the railways can offer. Even in the heyday of the railways all the local distribution from stations and goods yards had to be performed by horse-drawn vehicles. The motor vehicle quickly took over these functions, and then, with improving range, speed and reliability, it successfully challenged the railways on their own ground. So successful was it that it soon began to build up new movement custom on its own merits. Overall the position was not that the motor vehicle is less and away the dominant method of transport for people, goods and services.

The motor vehicle, moreover, by its greater flexibility of the service it could provide, profoundly affected the pattern of urban development in the great inter-war expansions. We may wring our hands about these spreads and sprawls, but they have happened. They will exist for generations.

Direct grant schools

From the Headmistress of the Perse School for Girls
Sir, I write in support of my colleague, Miss (The Times, Saturday, March 13) concerning the loss of opportunities for children owing to the policy of the present government in education. I find all Mr. Johnson says amply confirmed in my present experience.

I would add one further point: I have this year more than ever been inundated with requests from parents of all from Cambridge (shire itself) to take children in the Middle School (12+ to 16+) where I have only casual vacancies to offer. In several cases, the parents concerned had believed in the comprehensive principle, had sent their children to the local school, and fully expected to put them now, honestly, to admit that the local school did not give their own child the opportunities for which they had hoped. One of my sixth formers, who had spent her 11 to 16 school life in a large comprehensive school

Making prisons harder

From Dr Margaret Jones
Sir, "Victims deserve justice" writes the Honorable National Secretary of the Association of Magisterial Officers (The Times, March 15), the implication being that "justice" is the satisfaction of knowing that the offender has been made to suffer.

Surely victims also deserve (what a retributive system of criminal justice does not provide) help, advice and "some tangible expression of society's sympathy and concern", as a cogently argued Times leader put it recently (February 3). In view of the criticism of the Director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders for

having made no reference in his letter (March 10) to "those who suffer the consequences of crime", the Magisterial Officers may be said to have a more realistic scheme to give practical help to the victims of crime has in fact been started by NACRO. It operates in Bristol, through a team of volunteers working in cooperation with the police, and was reported on in The Times of February 25.

I write as a magistrate and a member of NACRO, convinced of the desirability of extending such efforts to help the victims of crime. Yours faithfully,
MARGARET JONES,
17 Swallowdale,
Widgway Bank,
Wolverhampton,
March 15.

and who came to us when her family moved, wrote spontaneously to the local press exposing the fallacy of the promised greater opportunities for all in a large comprehensive school, comparing us very favourably with her former establishment. Younger children, of 12 or 13 years old hoping for my rare middle school places, simply tell me "I just want to work", and hope against all hope that I can take them in.

I write, Sir, as one who cares and always has for poor or handicapped or deprived children. I shall continue to do my best for them here as I have done throughout my professional career: but I cannot understand the philosophy of those who, while admitting the excellence of the direct grant schools, seek to make them available only to the rich. They are in my opinion acting against their own socialist principles. Yours faithfully,
C. M. BEDSON,
Headmistress,
Perse School for Girls,
Cambridge.

having made no reference in his letter (March 10) to "those who suffer the consequences of crime", the Magisterial Officers may be said to have a more realistic scheme to give practical help to the victims of crime has in fact been started by NACRO. It operates in Bristol, through a team of volunteers working in cooperation with the police, and was reported on in The Times of February 25.

Mr Wilson's resignation: choosing a successor

From Mr P. K. Lawrence
Sir, Before the issue of the succession obscures the departure of Harold Wilson I would like to suggest that this nation owes him a considerable debt of gratitude for the following achievements, and that on these grounds alone he should be numbered among the more successful Premiers of this century.

1 The effective soldering together of acceptance of EEC membership for Britain in a way which has averted the issue out of the realm of general discussion and dissension in an incredibly short time.
2 The considerable achievement of setting us on a necessary, yet rarely unpopular, road to economic survival without complete alienation of the trades unions.
3 The real, yet unobtrusive, movement towards social justice instigated by the Open University's stealthy attack on academic privilege.

4 For presenting an image of stable, pipe-smoking imperitability in the face of all our problems which must have done something to break the force of the winds in the late sixties and seventies. It is good to hear that we are not to lose his valuable qualities from Parliament, where the back benches should be greatly strengthened. Yours faithfully,
P. K. LAWRENCE,
P. K. Lawleys Road,
Weald, Sevenoaks,
Kent.

From Mrs Jasmine Mitchell
Sir, Your correspondent Miss Mary Southern (March 18) asserts that "Mr Wilson has served this country well". With the greatest respect, I suggest that Mr Wilson has served this country well is a matter for considerable debate, and certainly not one of fact. Yours faithfully,
JASMINE MITCHELL,
39 Park Steps,
St Georges Fields, W2.

From Mr John Thirkell
Sir, A Prime Minister should be an intellectual with common sense. This is a rare combination of qualities. James Callaghan has common sense, but is short on intellect. Wedgwood Benn is an intellectual who lacks common sense. This narrows the choice down to

Russia and Nato: military imbalance

From Mr Philip Goodhart, Conservative MP for Bromley, Beckenham
Sir, In your interesting leading article "A warning about the West's defences" (March 16) which followed the publication of a report outlining Nato's vulnerability to a surprise attack, you say "... the Israelis failed to appreciate the significance of Arab military movements leading up to the October War in 1973, but this was one of the lessons of the October War which the West is not likely to forget soon". Unfortunately all the available evidence points in the opposite direction. When the Americans increased the state of readiness of their own forces during that conflict they were immediately criticised by many of their European Nato allies for increasing the state of international tension. It is all too clear that any Western defence minister who suggested increasing the state of readiness of his country's defence forces at a time of political and military tension with the Warsaw Pact would be subjected to similar criticisms.

Meanwhile you rightly point out that "Even if they [the Russians] are not immediately aggressive, they tend to expand where they find a vacuum".

On March 18, following the publication of this year's Defence White Paper, your Defence Correspondent notes that "the imbalance of forces in Central Europe has moved further in the Warsaw Pact's favour". Outside Europe the dismantling of our defensive capabilities is now almost complete. This year's Defence Review confirms that 38,000 servicemen will be made redundant and 53,000 defence related civilian jobs will disappear. The fact that it does not entail Mr. Noel-Baker to imply, as he does with uncharacteristic lack of charity, that I am an "advocate of increased armaments". Let Lord Duncan-Sandys, the Minister of Defence, choose to associate itself with this kind of activity that is, of course, a decision entirely for its members. Similarly Lord Gardner and others taking part in the forum are entitled to make their own decisions. 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Insurance chief resigns in marine rates crisis

By Our Insurance Correspondent

Friction among leading underwriters in the London marine insurance market over how to deal with increasing competition and falling premiums has reached a crisis with the resignation of Mr Henry Chester from the Joint Hull Committee, of which he was deputy chairman.

This is the influential body through which Lloyd's and company marine underwriters have administered their premium and general strategy for about 40 years.

Once before, in the 1930s, the cartel-like Joint Hull Agreement administered by the Committee was threatened by the threat of increasing competition, and it again appears to be strained to near breaking point.

It is believed that Mr John Oliver, who, like Mr Chester, is a partner in Messrs Lloyd's and Co, is expected to be elected as immediate past chairman of the Joint Hull Committee, has also resigned. Mr Oliver was not

Mr Henry Chester: Fierce competition from America, Japan and Europe.

available to confirm this last night.

The general chairman of the committee, Mr Edward Kainbo, said that the insurance manager for Commercial Union Assurance, was unavailable to comment on suggestions that other members of the committee were considering resigning.

The whole situation is likely to be discussed at a meeting of the Joint Hull Committee next week—it meets every week—following the announcement of Mr Chester's resignation.

It appears that what precipitated Mr Chester's resignation were two recent incidents in which underwriters who are party to the Joint Hull Agreement, already mentioned, negotiated substantial marine rises at below agreed premium rates. One of these two placings is understood to have been on behalf of the Hongkong owner, Y. P. Lee.

The Joint Hull Committee agreed last August that rates for marine insurance ought not to be allowed to fall below their already depressed levels, and 1976 premium levels in the London market were generally effected on this basis. However, there appear to have been two major departures from this in the past fortnight.

Mr Chester said last night

that London marine underwriters had felt it all the more necessary to stand together recently in the face of fierce competition from America, Japan and Europe.

"I believe that rates generally are around 10 per cent below what they ought to be in order to run the whole market on a profitable basis," he added.

The Joint Hull Agreement designed to formulate the basis of insurance renewals on the basis of past results. Recent experience has persuaded many underwriters of the need to increase premium rates by around 10 per cent a year over the next two years, though others appear to have been prepared to break ranks.

The Times index : 162.79 — 0.67
The FT index : 394.3 — 1.8

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.60	1.54
Austria Sch	36.25	34.25
Belgian Franc	1.25	1.20
Canada \$	1.94	1.89
Denmark Kr	12.65	11.65
Finland Mk	7.60	7.25
France F	9.25	8.95
Germany Dm	5.00	4.85
Greece Dr	68.50	65.00
Hongkong \$	9.35	9.35
Italy Lr	1750.00	1670.00
Japan Y	600.00	575.00
Netherlands Gld	5.30	5.10
Norway Kr	10.90	10.55
Portugal Esc	57.00	51.00
S Africa Rd	2.45	2.15
Spain Pes	194.75	184.75
Sweden Kr	5.00	4.80
Switzerland Fr	5.00	4.80
US \$	1.37	1.52
Yugoslavia Dnr	37.50	34.00

Rates for small quantities bank mode only. No special consideration for bank rates, inter-bank and discount rates apply to investors' credits and other foreign currency business.

**Unit Trust :
Barclays London 500' Trust**

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Estate agents

Lessons in home-buying without tears

essential when selling a house
to establish how commission is
to be based. Agents are
bidden by law to "fix" fees

between one firm and another but are free to stipulate their own charges. There is room for negotiation between an indi-

and viction

through some other agent, or direct with an insurance company, this is when you may need a broker.

There are a few specialists in insurers which concentrate on providing insurance for the type of business which most money insurers would rather not have on their books. Of course, they have to charge realistic premiums (as there is no other business to "subsidize" the "non-standard" business), but perhaps, surprisingly, often the appreciably better terms are offered than are otherwise

These specialists deal almost exclusively through brokers. They consist of a few not-so-well-known companies, and also underwriters at Lloyd's. Lloyd brokers John Holman and Sons have established a contract known as Enterprise Month, in which Lloyd's which is

Round-up
New from Scottish Equitable • A scheme for clergy

whether this involved a claim or not.

Of course, it can be argued that, if anybody has been disqualified from driving for a year, he may very well be a much better risk. After all, he is likely to take much greater care to avoid a repetition. But an argument along those lines is unlikely to convince the insurers. They will still take a harsh line.

In this situation, it is not unusual for the company, with which the policy may have been arranged for some years, to say that it will provide cover which is no wider than third party. And it may want a high premium for that. The practice among insurers differs, and, of

individual inquiries can be made through local brokers' firms.

Finally, if you accept a lift in a car where, quite clearly, the driver is seriously "a wuss for fear" as a result of a previous drinking session, you cannot expect the driver to drive as safely as if he was a stone, cold sober.

If there is an accident, it may make it more difficult to obtain compensation from the driver's insurers may well point out that, in the circumstances, you yourself displayed negligence in accepting the lift, knowing the condition of the driver.

In court, much will depend on the individual circumstances—but you could be in a difficult situation.

Investment trust valuations

24.6	do Conv. Loan 1983/89	27.02.76	2.55	229.6
41.6	Transvaal	27.02.76	8.95	101.2
21.7	Transvaal-Deutsche Trust	27.02.76	8.95	101.2
40.8	do Conv. Loan 1982/89	27.02.76	84.20	116.4
10.9	Woolston	27.02.76	25.10	2104.3
	do Conv. Loan 1983/84	27.02.76	2.15	
	Stewart Pat. Managers Ltd.	29.02.76	1.1	81.8
56.2	Scottish American	29.02.76	1.1	91.2
14.9	Scottish European	29.02.76	1.1	91.2
	Touche Nannett & Co	27.02.76	1.15	65.4
20.8	Atlas Electric & General	27.02.76	1.19	65.2
20.8	Bankers	27.02.76	1.4	53.2
25.5	C.L.R.P.	27.02.76	1.1	75.5
25.5	Gedif	27.02.76	4.0	42.0
14.3	City of London Brewery Plc 269	27.02.76	1.91	17.1
14.3	Confidential	27.02.76	1.14	59.2
144.2	Industrial & General	27.02.76	2.0	128.4
31.0	International Inv	27.02.76	2.04	124.3
40.4	Solihull	27.02.76	2.2	108.4
29.6	Standard	27.02.76	2.0	161.3
29.6	Trust Union	27.02.76	2.95	259.3
29.6	Trustees Corporation	27.02.76	2.95	259.3
	VALUATION THREE-MONTHLY			
12.2	London Atlantic	27.02.76	1.57	61.2
2.2	London Stock Exchange	31.01.76	3.75	162.5
9.0	Safeway Industrial	31.01.76	2.2	141.6
49.8	United States Belmont Corp	31.01.76	22.00	210.4
	do Conv. Lk. S.N. 1983	31.01.76	2.24	
	Cardif/Tyasaide Group	31.01.76	2.75	196.4
18.7	Cardif	31.01.76	2.75	248.6
	do Conv. Lk. 1984/89	31.01.76	2.90	149.5
10.8	Tyasaide	31.01.76	2.75	123.8
	do Conv. Lk. 1984/89	31.01.76	24.50	
	City Financial Administration Ltd	17.02.76	—	86.4
4.1	Acorn Securities Capital Corp. 10	18.02.76	3.25	179.2
14.0	General Fund	15.02.76	2.08	141.6
12.2	Investing in Success	12.02.76	2.08	179.2
	Equilibrium Portfolio Management	12.02.76	3.25	179.2
78.4	Drayton Premier	27.02.76	5.4	240.0
	do Conv. Loan 1983	27.02.76	5.70	216.0
	do "B" Conv. Lk. 1983	27.02.76	3.75	216.0
69.8	Drayton Consolidated	27.02.76	5.70	216.0
	do Conv. Loan 1983	27.02.76	5.70	216.0
	do "A" Conv. Lk. 1984	27.02.76	26.50	216.0
	do "B" Conv. Lk. 1984	27.02.76	26.50	216.0
45.8	Drayton Commercial	27.02.76	5.7	216.0
	do Conv. Loan 1988	27.02.76	3.35	216.0
11.7	English & International	27.02.76	5.25	216.0
	do Conv. Loan 1986	27.02.76	5.70	216.0
8.0	Colonial Securities	27.02.76	6.2	216.0
6.0	British Industries & Gen	27.02.76	2.8	216.0
5.5	British American	27.02.76	5.60	216.0
5.5	British American	27.02.76	0.75	54.4
	City & Fynion Investment Co.	30.03.76	—	—
	East of Scotland Investment Mgrs.	31.02.76	3.5	155.0
39.5	Abderson	29.02.76	3.25	221.5
9.8	Dominion & General	29.02.76	2.5	138.0
23.4	Pentland	29.02.76	2.5	138.0
	Plumtree Services Ltd.	29.02.76	1.15	60.8
	J.W. Holdings	29.02.76	1.15	60.8
4.4	London Prudential	27.02.76	1.89375	77.1
01.2	Meredith	27.02.76	1.85	77.1
	AMENDMENT IN TOTAL	15.02.76		
	VALUATION MONTHLY			
25.8.	Schwartz Wagg Group	30.03.76	3.09	118.5
25.8.	Brokers	30.03.76	3.09	118.5

*--Applies to Ordinary/A
 *--adjusted for rights issue.
 *--valuation two monthly.
 *--not available.
 *--method of
 dividend
 *--Convertible stocks are treated as fully converted at the date of the
 conversion date, or where a figure is marked "x" as prior charges; warrants
 subscription rights are treated as exercised, except where a figure is marked

[illegible]

tears school fees

Advantages offered by company pension scheme

As with rocketing school fees and effective salary cuts, there has been a dearth of interest in pension schemes by which employees are helped by fringe benefits to meet the costs of private education.

The interest is further fuelled by the expectation of a particular loophole, for the purpose, may be used by the next Finance Bill, if Mr. Heath's attention is not diverted by other things in the next weeks. There is, therefore, a feeling of "Hurry, while the loophole is open."

The basic mechanism is that an employee gets an interest-free (or low interest) loan from his company, which he uses to buy an annuity which will go towards future school fees. At the same time, the company's ordinary endowment policy, with the proceeds of which the original company is in due course repaid, is a key to this scheme.

The consideration from the company must be in the form of a repayable loan. As a matter of fact, the Inland Revenue has taken the view that an arrangement is not a benefit. The reason is under Section 196 of the Finance Act the taxman takes the question of non-repayment of benefits from the point of view of the employer, not the value of the benefit to the employee.

As low interest, or interest-free, loans, which have been widespread in the various of the banking industry, the Bank of England, have not been normally as a taxable benefit, because of the practical difficulty of deciding what cost represents to the employer.

Under the Inland Revenue's view, the employer is merely giving a receipt (ie, the cash he might have had on loan) rather than incurring a specific expense (eg, the cost of providing a company that is not treated as a cost for tax purposes).

Second tax advantage of the original loan scheme is that the company (used to buy specially tailored annuity) presents a tax-free benefit, which is repaid through the life insurance premiums' cost against income tax.

Others, like Holmwoods & Manson, who specialise in kind of annuity, have had a greatly increased inquiry from companies such schemes. There is a feeling that, even if the Finance Bill changes situation, concessionary made before April 6 may be the net, because such as tend not to be totally effective.

Investor's week

Market hiatus • Ratepayers' francs

Having hidden currency crises, southern African dramas and rights issues galore, the market's nerve was fully stretched this week by the Prime Minister's resignation.

The account closed yesterday with the FT index standing 15.7 down on the week at 3943, and 10.4 down on the account.

The damage was done on Tuesday when Mr Wilson's announcement sent a hitherto reasonably firm market tumbling. The index fell back nearly 16 points in one stroke before recovering to close the day just over 10 points down.

Thereafter anxieties about the likely successor were enough to keep investment sentiment at a minimum with prices being marked down in most sectors. And with much big buyers holding back until the government leadership contest is resolved, most factors

point to a quiet opening to the new account, too. Gilt also failed to provide investors with much excitement, drifting easier for much of the week, though signs of recovery were evident towards the end of the week.

Ratepayers in London and Birmingham have more reason than most to be apprehensive about the plummeting value of the pound.

Most local authorities which have borrowed money in foreign currency have done so under the umbrella of Treasury "cover", a device introduced in the 1973 Budget which enabled local authorities to borrow effectively to insure themselves with Treasury against any risk of loss through exchange rate movements. Once such cover had been obtained

it was the Treasury rather than the authority which carried the risk.

The Greater London Council and Birmingham, however, decided in 1973 that the risk was worth taking and, rather than pay the cost of cover, ventured into the market as borrowers without it. The GLC borrowed 20m Swiss francs and Birmingham 31m.

The gamble has not turned out to be a good one for ratepayers. When the GLC borrowed, the pound was worth 7.3 francs, while Birmingham borrowed when the rate was 7.54. That means the two loans were respectively worth £27.4m and £4.1m when they were taken out.

Today the pound is worth about 4.88 francs, which means that if the two loans were to be repaid now the GLC would have to pay £41m and Birmingham

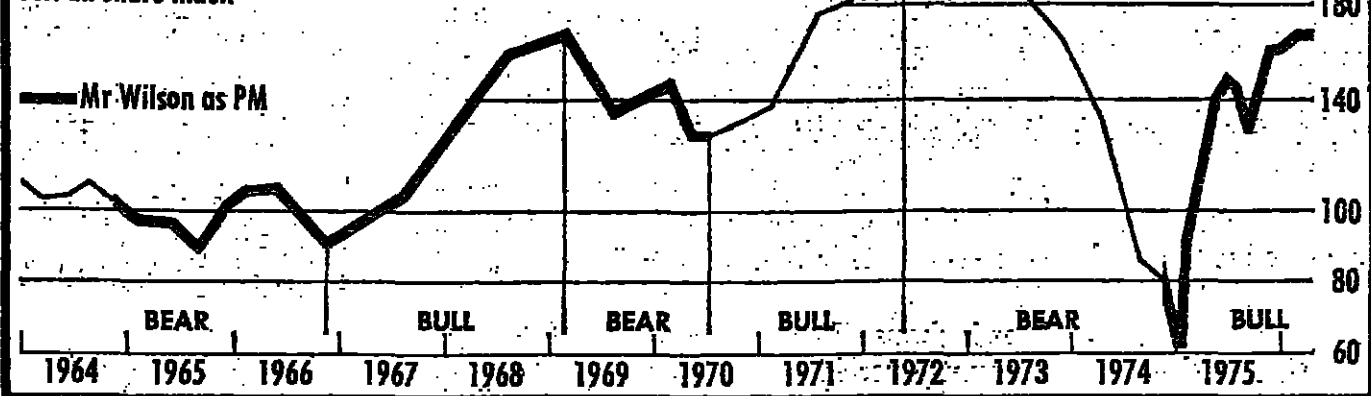
£6.35m. The cost to ratepayers so far, therefore, has been £13.6m and £2.25m.

The question is, ought the two authorities to cut their losses and repay now, or ought they to hold on in the hope that the pound might yet recover? The GLC's loan runs until 1980, while Birmingham's is repayable in two tranches in November, 1978, and November, 1979.

Birmingham admits to having looked at the question of early repayment, but both authorities think that there could be problems on the grounds that exchange control permission for such loans can be obtained only for those that are to have a life of more than five years. It would seem that, for the moment, both are clinging on and hoping for the best.

THE MARKETS UNDER FAR WILSON

FTA all share index



Share prices since the 1964 election

Ironically, stock market mythology has it that investors have tended to fare better under a Labour than a Conservative government. In real terms, of course, they have not done well under either, since the war, but Mr Wilson's resignation announcement at least provides an appropriate moment to measure what kind of a ride investors have enjoyed under his premiership.

What the graph shows, unsurprisingly perhaps, is that it is impossible to draw much correlation between the coming in and the going out of governments and the movements in the market.

It is true that in 1964 Labour's victory was a cause for depression which left the market in the doldrums for the next two years. The election in March, 1966, saw the market lower than it had been when Mr Wilson first moved into Downing Street, but only by three points on the FT 30-share index.

Far from showing any particular consternation at Labour's much enlarged majority in the house, however, which increased the likelihood of the government being able to carry through more vigorously the kind of policies calculated to send alarm sweeping through the City, the market subsequently embarked upon a bull phase lasting until early in 1968.

From around 345 when the 1966 election was held, the FT

index reached a peak of 520 in early 1969 before slipping back to 329 when the "snap" election of June, 1970, was staged.

After some months of uncertainty under the new Conservative régime, the market took off again, reaching a peak of 543.6 in May, 1972. But just as Mr Wilson's 1966/70 government had encompassed a bull and a bear market, so did Mr Heath's 1970/74 government. On the day the country went to the polls at the end of February, 1974, the index had fallen back to 332.

In investment terms there was thus little to choose between the two governments and when Mr Heath went out of power the index was still lower than when Mr Wilson came in in 1964. Under none of the three governments did investors make anything, although losses were fairly slight.

That brings us to Mr Wilson's present administration. The slide already apparent under Mr Heath gathered momentum, the index dropping as low as 146 at the beginning of last year. Since then it has bounced back with equal rapidity, however, although latterly it has been suffering sideways around the 400 mark.

The ultimate irony, then, is that, unless the market collapses between now and Mr Wilson's final departure, his latest spell as Prime Minister, taking a period of worse economic collapse than any since the 1930s, has proved to

be better for investors than any previous premiership since he came to power 12 years ago.

The investor who stuck by that old stock market myth and decided to pile into equities on the day Mr Wilson was re-

turned in 1974 is today showing about 20 per cent profit, but should not, of course, forget what inflation has done to his investment in real terms.

Pensions

Benefits many workers have yet to claim

The first question any employee is likely to ask about his pension scheme is whether he can join it at all. The level of benefits is irrelevant if he can not.

Early pension schemes were designed for clerical and executive employees, and it is only in recent years that there has been any widespread extension to shop floor workers. There is still a majority of schemes which admit only white collar workers.

Events of recent years—with the uncertainty about the future of the state scheme and the part to be played by occupational schemes—have slowed down the widening of pension scheme membership but there is little doubt that it will be resumed once the application of pay restrictions permits.

Trade unions are taking an increasing interest in the problem. Broadly speaking it is the larger employers of manual

Are you in the scheme?

Each year, probably 10 to 15 per cent of the workforce are not in a pension scheme. This is a serious problem for the employee, as he will not be able to claim his benefits when he retires. The employee should check with his employer or the Pensions Information Centre to see if he is in a scheme. If not, he should try to get into one. The Pensions Information Centre can provide information on the various schemes available and help the employee to choose the best one for him.



An extract from the Company Pensions Information Centre booklet "How to understand your pension scheme."

Continuing a new series on company schemes

There is therefore nothing in the new proposals to encourage the spread of occupational schemes to categories of worker not already covered, apart from the necessity for providing a modest level of benefit through the state scheme if no suitable occupational scheme exists.

So the responsibility for encouraging future extension of scope lies with the workers concerned and their representatives. It is largely because they have not appeared to value pension benefits as much as

increased take-home pay that they have been overlooked to some extent up to now. A lot of schemes in the past excluded women, too, partly for the same reason.

At the same time, employers were unenthusiastic about admitting to their scheme a category of employee who would be unlikely to stay long enough to benefit. If women were admitted at all, it was normally at a higher age and after longer service.

The requirements to preserve pensions for members leaving a scheme in some circumstances changed things, although I do not think most women were aware of it. Social attitudes changed too, and more women now look upon their work as a

career, rather than a temporary interlude. Partly as a result, and partly as a result of changing attitudes among men, an employer is now no more likely to retain his men employees until they retire than the women.

This was the background to the new law introduced by Barbara Castle in the latter part of last year. This will make it illegal after April 5, 1978, for an employer to discriminate between men and women in the eligibility conditions for his pension scheme.

This does not mean, however, that she will necessarily join on the same terms as men although in most schemes she is likely to be better off, not worse. The point which I have mentioned about contracting out applies to women as well as to any other category of worker, of course, and will put a limit on the extent of differentiation between the sexes in contracted out schemes.

But there is, and will be, nothing to prevent a scheme from admitting employees in some sorts of job and not those in others—even if one group is in practice predominantly men and the other women.

Eric Brunet

BARCLAYS UNICORN

Five good reasons why you should invest now in Unicorn '500' Trust.

1 A good income
Unicorn '500' is something special in unit trusts. It aims to provide an above average income by investing mainly in a wide spread of smaller companies with prospects for capital growth.

The yield on Unicorn '500' Trust is estimated at 5.89% before tax at the offer price of 55.4p x d, as at 18th March.

2 Growth potential
Today smaller companies have a special added attraction. They have yet to experience fully the considerable rise in share values which larger companies have shown in the last 12 months. Previous experience in rising markets has indicated that smaller companies follow the leaders after an interval.

In other words these should be investments with prospects of growth ahead. Remember too that many small companies have significant overseas earnings which have added importance while sterling is weak. We believe therefore that this is a good time to invest in Unicorn '500' Trust.

3 Merger potential
A proportion of the companies in the Unicorn '500' portfolio are the kind that are likely to benefit from

mergers. There is some indication that these situations are currently increasing in number.

4 Impressive performance
Anyone who invested £100 at the start of the Trust (6th February, 1966) has seen the income double from £5.74 in the first full year to £11.55 in 1975. With net income reinvested, this holding would now have a realisable value of £240—substantially more than double the outlay.

In capital growth alone the share price has risen 84% compared with the Financial Times All-Share Index, which rose 50% over the same period.

5 Wider spread for extra protection
Unicorn '500' Trust spreads your money over a large number of companies which gives extra protection. You should regard your investment as a long-term one. You should remember that the price of shares and the income from them can go down as well as up.

How to invest
You can invest a lump sum of £150 or more in Unicorn '500' Trust simply by filling in the application form and posting it with your cheque.

Capital Transfer Tax — a last chance

Now is a very opportune moment, before the current financial year to 5th April, 1976 runs out, for investors to take full advantage of the £1000 gift exemption allowed for capital transfer tax purposes. A gift of Unicorn '500' Trust shares could be a good way to do it. To the extent that the relief is not exhausted in one year it may be carried forward to the next following year but no further. Up to £2000 is therefore available for anyone who has not taken up the previous year's entitlement.

Barclays Bank Branches
Remember, you can get full information about Barclays Unicorn at your nearest branch of Barclays Bank. They will be pleased to help you and to handle the details of purchase for you without charge—and you do not have to have an account there.

Alternatively, your stock broker, solicitor or accountant will give you advice about this or any other Barclays Unicorn investment. Income is distributed at least twice a year. The first distribution for shareholders investing now will be paid on 15th October and thereafter at half-yearly intervals. Alternatively it can be reinvested. With your notification you will receive a tax voucher which will enable you to claim a refund from the Inland Revenue if your circumstances permit.

Charges The buying (offer) price of your unit trust shares includes an initial management charge of 5%. After that a half-yearly charge of 3/16ths of 1% (plus VAT) will be made on the value of the Trust Fund. This will be deducted from the income of the Fund.

Commission at the rate of 1 1/2% will be paid by the Managers to all authorised agents forwarding applications to invest. Agents should deduct commission and VAT when making payment. Commission is not payable in respect of Barclaycard purchases.

Prices and Yields are published daily in the Financial Times and other national newspapers. You can sell back your unit trust shares to the Managers at the bid price ruling when your instructions arrive. Payment will be made promptly within 7 days of receipt of the repurchase certificate.

Managers Barclays Unicorn Limited, Unicorn House, 252 Romford Road, London E7 8JB. Tel: 01-534 5544. (Member of the Association of Unit Trust Managers.) Trustees Royal Exchange Assurance.



BARCLAYS UNICORN



Extracts from the Chairman's Review

1975... one of the most difficult years in the history of the aluminium industry and for Alcan, particularly in the U.K. with heavy exchange costs, low demand and high inflation. Inflation means unemployment... increases in costs of say 20% here cannot be sustained against overseas competitors with say 3%... Some recovery can now be foreseen here... Capital expenditure in 1975 was £9m but is unlikely to exceed £5m in 1976 because of inadequate profitability. Profits are the lifeblood of all businesses, without which they will die and under Governments unable to finance their activities... Exports reached £18m... In my view Government imposed employee participation will fail but management and employees must achieve more contact within the framework of a code of practice... Taxation of personal incomes at all levels now deters extra effort, drive and initiative... Inflation has changed the cost picture for most basic materials and metals... New developments, including those for aluminium, will require price levels 40-60% higher than today's... A professional valuation of our land and buildings shows an increase of £21.5m before tax but this has not been incorporated in the accounts.

JOHN ELTON, Chairman.

Summary of Results

	1975 £'000	1974 £'000
Sales	158,962	182,742
Profit (loss) before taxation	(5,459)	7,696
Funds generated	2,536	13,217
Profit (loss) attributable to Ordinary Shareholders	(2,357)	2,721
Capital employed	136,056	142,564

Earnings per Ordinary Share	(7.4p)	9.4p
Return on Capital employed	2.1%	10.7%
Number of employees at year end	8,149	9,410

* (Before interest and exceptional items)

The full Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1975 will be available after March 1976 on request to the Company, Alcan Aluminium (U.K.) Limited, Alcan House, 30 Berkeley Square, London, W1X 6DP.

Application Form

To: Barclays Unicorn Limited, Unicorn House, 252 Romford Road, London E7 8JB or 35 Castle Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DS

Surname (Mr, Mrs, or Miss) _____

Forenames (in full) _____

Address _____

I/We wish to invest £ _____ in shares of Unicorn '500' Trust and enclose my/our cheque for this amount.

If you wish to purchase the shares through your Barclaycard please fill in your Barclaycard number below: _____

I/We understand that shares will be bought for me/us at the offer price ruling on the day of receipt of this application, and that I/we will be sent a contract note showing the number purchased.

Please tick here if you want your net income automatically reinvested: ☐

I/We declare that I am/are over 18 and am/are not resident outside the Scheduled Territories nor acquiring the shares as the nominee(s) of any person(s) resident outside those Territories. If you are unable to make this declaration, it should be deleted and the form lodged through your bank, stockbroker or any other authorised depository in the U.K. This offer is not applicable to residents of the Republic of Ireland. In the case of joint applications all must sign.

Signed _____ Date _____

TI 2003 UD Agents VAT Reg. No. _____

Registered office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH. Registered in England No. 589407.

A financial service of the Barclays Bank Group

Barclays 1975

"1975 has been a difficult year for banking throughout the world..."

The Annual General Meeting of Barclays Bank Limited will be held in London on April 13, 1976. The following are extracts from the address to the Stockholders by the Chairman, Mr. Anthony Tuke, for the year 1975:

1975 has been a difficult year for banking throughout the world and our rather disappointing results confirm that we are no exception. The fall of £7 million (4 per cent) in the Group's operating profit reflects the impact of sharply rising costs. Some 70 per cent of our expenses are represented by our salary bill which itself has risen by more than 50 per cent since 1972, which is the base date for many of our charges. The operation of the Price Code, which had had the result of holding down our commission and fee income in this period of rapid-inflation, has made us over-dependent on interest income and vulnerable to changes in rate levels. We have reached the unhealthy position where depositors and borrowers, including industrial borrowers, are in effect having to subsidise the users of money transmission and other commission earning services. For instance, our Trust Company, which provides a specialised service in competition with other bodies, is no longer running at a profit and it seems illogical that its charges must be kept to their 1972 level simply because profits are still being earned in other parts of the Group. We hope that we shall be able to correct this distortion in 1976 with the help of the Price Commission.

The second main reason for the fall in our profit has been the increase in provisions for doubtful debts throughout the world. This is an inevitable result of the most severe recession this and other countries have experienced since the war. The problem is not likely to disappear overnight; indeed in the palmy days of what our critics described as the 'obscene' banking profits of 1972 and 1973 many of us foresaw the inevitability of night following day, and there is no doubt that the retentions of those two years have stood us in good stead. At that time I referred to the need of banks to have plenty of wool on their backs to deal with future cold weather and one of our leading financial journalists produced a neat riposte by saying 'nevertheless sheep need shearing'. I think that 1975 has amply proved how useful that wool has been.

Property and fringe banks

Although the increase in our provisions is spread throughout the world most of our problems have been in this country and the main cause has been the fall in property values and the associated question of the fringe banks. Since property and buildings provide the underlying security for many bank lendings, above all to industry and for construction, the weakness of the property market has a considerable effect when we calculate the amount of provision required to cover any shortfall in our security. Our direct lending in this country to the property sector has remained more or less constant at about 8 per cent of total advances. This reflects the ability of the great majority of our customers to meet accruing interest.

Last year I mentioned that Barclays' total commitment in the recycling operation to support the so-called fringe banks amounted to some £300 million. The figure has since decreased slightly but the problem still gives cause for concern. The level of interest rates and the state of uncertainty in the property market continue to create difficulties for those receiving support. We have made provisions on a prudent basis for all lendings to the lifeboat, including those to the First National Finance Corporation. Whereas in 1974 the net interest earned was sufficient to match the provisions made under the support exercise, this has not been true in 1975. A real move forward in the property market, however, would transform the position.

Capital adequacy

The increase in the risks borne by banks in the last few years underlines the need for maintaining a satisfactory capital base. Since last year, discussions have been held between the clearing banks and the Bank of England, and it is intended that we shall review our capital position with the Bank annually. It is likely that there will be a different approach in that we shall be considering the risks attached to individual classes of assets rather than the traditional ratios of total deposit liabilities to capital. We welcome this step forward – not least the important statement that retained profits will need to make a substantial contribution to the maintenance of an appropriate capital base, particularly in an inflationary situation.

Retained profits are naturally affected by the level of taxation and inflation accounting. In common with many other institutions we welcome the adoption by the Government of the principal recommendations of the Sandilands Committee. We have however made clear our concern that their implementation must take into account the special position of the financial institutions. Unlike industry, the greater part of our assets are not in stock or in bricks and mortar but in lendings or investments – in short, in money. Yet clearly inflation has a dramatic effect on our balance sheet totals, and we require just as much as any other company, to see our profits and our retentions increasing at a faster rate than inflation. But we are obliged to pay tax on what are only paper profits, and our retentions have been falling even in money terms, implying a sharp reduction in real terms. We feel it is essential for the effects of inflation to be reflected in the accounting and taxation of banks, as of industry, if the banking system is not to be handicapped in its task of financing industry itself.

UK Division

Our level of lending showed a decrease in 1975. This was mainly because companies' fixed capital outlays have fallen in real terms and there has been heavy destocking. Industry's liquidity has equally benefited from the easing of company taxation in respect of stock valuation. Borrowing by the personal sector too has been at a relatively low level as uncertainty and the fall in the real value of their liquid assets caused by inflation have led people to become more cautious and increase their savings to an unexpected degree. Similar developments can be seen in other countries.

Our total lending limits to industry in this country amount to £3,200 million of which only 53 per cent has been taken up at the present time. Contrary to the views of some critics of the banking system we are anxious to expand our lending to industry which, despite the fact that the cost of overdrafts has fallen and remains below that of long term finance, is held back by the lack of demand. We are particularly keen to play our part in making funds available for periods of up to ten years in respect of productive capital investment in fixed assets as well as for working capital.

Since my statement last year, our medium term loans in the UK Division – the greater part of which are made to the manufacturing industry – have increased by 75 per cent. If we take into account loans made by other members of the Group in the UK and under the ECGD scheme, which has a considerable impact on industry, our total investment is not far off £1,000 million. There has been much talk of the failure of the City and, in particular, the banks to meet industry's needs. We may have been at fault in not giving enough publicity to the contribution to investment that we make, but I believe that we are beginning to get our message across.

Unlike most of our competitors we had until this year no subsidiary specialising in instalment credit for the personal and industrial market, although we owned 17.6 per cent of the ordinary shares of Mercantile Credit Company Limited. In July, therefore, we made a successful offer for the remainder of the equity of that company which we are glad to welcome into our Group. We are anxious to preserve its independent and thrusting spirit and to develop the range of direct and indirect lending services which it offers. More rapid growth in personal lending must however wait for an improvement in the economy and the removal of Government restrictions.

These factors have also inhibited the continued expansion of Barclaycard which is now reaching its tenth anniversary. In 1966 when it got under way, it was the first large credit card operation to be undertaken by a British bank, and growth since then has been impressive. We now have nearly 3,000,000 cardholders and over 80,000 merchants in the scheme. It is no secret that we have not earned from Barclaycard the profits we would have liked; the rapid rise in expenses during recent years, together with the high cost of funds required to finance

the Barclaycard operation has militated against profitability, as have the successive controls imposed upon us. As a consequence we found it necessary to raise the monthly interest charge from 1½ per cent to 2 per cent in November, which with other measures should help to bring us an acceptable return from this source in future years.

Barclays Bank International

During this difficult year at home the value to the Group of having an overseas arm has been amply demonstrated by the results of Barclays International. The latter now accounts for half of the Group's deposits and its operating profit increased last year by nearly 23 per cent from £58.6 million to £72 million. Movements in exchange rates naturally play a large part in determining the results, expressed in sterling, of a bank operating overseas in a wide variety of territories and currencies, and Barclays International is no exception. However, thanks to the spread of our activities, the combined effect of these ups and downs last year largely cancelled each other out, and the results can be said to represent genuine growth throughout the Group.

Financial Services Division

Barclays Merchant Bank Limited – as the former Barclays Bank (London and International) Limited has been rechristened – has been able to increase its medium term lending and rights issues business. Barclays Export and Finance Company Limited is now one of the leading United Kingdom companies in its field. Both made an increased contribution to Group profits.

Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited has seen a continuing increase in business but income has not kept pace with expenses. In Barclays Unicorn there was a significant increase in the sale of units, and funds under management by the Unicorn Group now exceed £300 million. The tenth anniversary of Barclays Life saw a record level of £90 million for new sums assured.

Barclays Insurance Services Company Limited has increased the volume of business and plans to establish a group presence at Lloyd's.

General outlook

To turn now to the future, 1976 should, given reasonable luck in the political field all over the world, at least be a less difficult year for us. The need for provisions will not disappear but a slowing down of inflation should help us to contain the growth in our costs and bank lending should start to show a modest growth. But there will still be problems even when the upturn led by the United States spreads to the world as a whole. For the world economic crisis has left a legacy of problems. In all countries it will be some years before the fear of inflation is eradicated. In the meantime Governments will probably keep a fairly tight rein on re-expansion even though unemployment remains relatively high. Consumers are thus likely to remain cautious and the persistence of unused capacity and the need to rebuild company liquidity are bound to restrain business investment in most countries. As a result the world economic upturn is likely to be a relatively weak one.

The second main problem remains the increase in the price of oil, which has cut living standards and widened the balance of payments deficits of oil importing countries. What has happened is that part of the revenue which we were able to raise from our taxes on oil and thus resources which we used to have to finance consumption and to build schools or roads and expand social services and pensions are now in the hands of the oil exporting countries. This will gradually be rectified by the latter's increasing demands for industrial goods and services. In the meantime, the more developed countries will need their own banking systems, particularly in the United States and Britain, and the Eurocurrency markets with which they are linked, as a vehicle for borrowing back some of those resources.

The difficulties of the less developed countries are more intractable. The enlargement of their balance of payments deficits since 1973 has been further aggravated by the fall in the prices of their commodity exports which, since 1974, has brought some relief to the industrial world. Perhaps their deficit will be somewhat smaller in 1976 as their commodity exports revive, but the financing of these deficits has already placed a heavy burden on the international banking system. International co-operation will be needed, involving OPEC as well as the major industrial countries, if dangerous strains on the world financial system are to be avoided.

In Britain the low point of recession has come later than in most other industrial countries because of our slowness to reduce living standards and of our tardiness in implementing policies of restraint. The result is that our inflation and our balance of payments deficit have been more severe than those of other industrial countries, and we have postponed the hardship of adjustment only at the cost of having to prolong it. So far this burden has fallen almost entirely on the private sector, to the grave detriment of our long term prosperity. Without a shift in resources from the State to the private sector and from expenditure on social consumption to productive manufacturing investment, we shall not only be handicapped in the battle against inflation, but shall fail in the objective of restoring the capacity for growth and improvement in the living standards which we have so conspicuously lost.

In financial terms this problem has recently been described as one of the 'crowding out' of private industrial borrowing by the demands made on the capital market by the public sector's large deficit. A reduction in both Government expenditure and taxation is needed to avoid this risk and to bring about a lasting fall in interest rates and the restoration of a climate of confidence for businessmen and investors.

Staff

On the salaries front we were able to take advantage of the short-lived freedom from Government pay restrictions and the cost of living increases for bank staff in this country were settled in June and July before the restrictions were re-imposed in August. A worrying problem is how differentials for responsibility are to be maintained in the future, having in mind the effect of pay restrictions on our salary structures.

Last year I covered in some detail the effect of inflation on our Pension Funds and our decision to increase our rate of contribution to 43 per cent of our salary bill. While it is, perhaps, too much to say that there has been a radical change for the better over the year, we considered that there had been enough improvement in the long term outlook to justify the use of a slightly less pessimistic range of assumptions on the rates generally and also of inflation. We are therefore using a contribution rate of 36½ per cent for 1975. If we had maintained our 43 per cent rate we should have transferred another £9 million to our principal Pension Fund.

My colleagues and I have during the last twelve months had the opportunity of visiting a considerable number of our Local Head Offices, Branches and subsidiary Companies both in this country and abroad and we are therefore fully aware of the outstanding contribution made by our staff to the progress and profit of the Bank. Our stockholders will, I know, wish me to emphasise this and record their appreciation.

Anthony Tuke

Anthony Tuke, Chairman of Barclays Bank Limited.

BARCLAYS



REGISTERED OFFICE: 54 LOMBARD STREET,
LONDON EC3P 3AH. REG. NO. 48839.

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Stock Exchange Prices

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Apr 2. Contango Day, Apr 5. Settlement Day, Apr 13.
 § Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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